EASTERN

1944

File No. 628

Mr. 6232 to end

CLOSED UNTIL 1972

40146

FOR STATE OF LOST OF THE CALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

49 2 OUT 1944 Registry 6232/628/31 Formation of Jewish Brigade Group British Broadcasting Company announcement. FROM Major General Pollock (Ministry Attaches, with reference to treatment of formation of Jewish Brigade Group by Arabic service of British Broadcasting Corporation, letter of 23rd September from Mr. Hilleson, Director Middle East Services. Mr. Hilleson discusses in detail question of treatment of delicate subjects and stresses of Information) to Mr. Hankey. Dated 2nd Oct., 1944. advisability of receiving official guidance beforehand. in Registry \ 12th Oct., Requests views on proposals put forward in letter. Copied Mr. Eastwood (Colonial Office). 1944. E:Palestine & Transjordan. Last Paper. (Minutes.) E6203 References. W.O. say there is nothing more we can say I have discussed it with Gen . Stiel (DSD). We can't say more than the P.M. did-(Print.) 40146 (How disposed of.) RMAHanku Col Williams The only altronative is to take the walter to the Cabinet o get a decision that we can say that the Brigade will not go to Palestine. I doubt if \$/\$ would be ready to do that in the PM. will be violently opposed; present circs: I doubt if we could vely on the Coolwood Ok) Mo Oliver (Haltanhom Modic present Gov! to carry out any statement if we (Action completed.) Emade it, too, & in that case matters whole be worse than wir. RMAH. 13) (M). 16/10 Next Paper. E 6270 27437 F.O.P.

CO T

37-1/401

Reference:
Reference:
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Les within

1) Lt Col Withers (WD.) to Mr Hankey of
Oct 10th
2) letter of 9th Oct from Mrs Oliver (Moft)
2) letter of 9th Oct from Mrs Oliver (Moft)
3) Minute by P. Minof Oct 5th

I arsonne with, if we do not [MM]
woman to give the public assumed 20/10
supposts by love Tropic (May B), Minus
is no need to answer the P.M.;
which theretay

[Minute land 5].

Rrivat Decetany

[Minute land 5].

WM 22/10

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5) Letter from Mas Obises to Me How key of 4th Jac.

The case which the Ministry of Information seem to be grousing about in this matter is an Abyssinian one. But they have also a slight tendency to be plaintive about the resignation of Sir E. Spears. On plaintive about the matter up with the News Department this, I fixed the matter up with the News Department and possibly I was at fault in not asking them to square and possibly I was at fault in not asking them to square up with the Ministry of Information. I am afraid that, up with the Ministry of Information. I am afraid that, be automatic.

I think perhaps there is a case for slightly closer liaison between the Foreign Office News Department, the Colonial Office News Department and the Middle East Division of the Ministry of Information and, as General Poolock is anxious to come and talk about it, I have Poolock is anxious to come and talk about it, I have agreed to have a discussion in my room at 3-15 p.m. on agreed to have a discussion in my room at 3-15 p.m. on agreed to have a discussion in my room at 3-15 p.m. on agreed to have a discussion in my room at 3-15 p.m. on

Oft) Moss O liver (Mof I) from Mr Hankey Oct

12. Duoon on

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of the News Department are coming. Would Egyptian Department co-operate and be represented? We'll make it as sachty as we can!
Egyptian Department?

8th December, 1944.

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I held a meeting this morning with General Pollock and Mrs. Oliver (Ministry of Information), Mr. Sabine and Mr. Clark (Colonial Office) and Mr. Nash of the News Depa rtment, to discuss the question of advance publicity guidance for the Middle East. Mr. Coverley-Price was unable to be present. We agreed that the preparation of advance

guidance was essentially the business of the Ministry of Information, that they would have to be kept informed, so far as possible, when important news was going to break (e.g. formation of Jewish Brigade, conclusion of agreement with tetc.), and that they would have to get much, if not most, of their material from the Foreign Office and Colonial Office.

We agreed (to my relief) that no system of regular meetings was necessary and that the situation could be met by close personal liaison. basis of Mr. Coverley-Price's minute, I said that, so far as Eastern and Egyptian Departments were concerned, we should both be very glad to maintain liaison as closely as possible. Mr. Oliver will May we

11th December, 1944.

WM 13/12

9

MINIO PE

10, DOWNING STREET, WHITEHALL,

5th October, 1944.

### COPY OF MINUTE BY THE PRIME MINISTER.

fly B

Reference:

Tel. No. 2270 from Cairo (Minister Resident) to F.O. (sentence in brackets in para. 3.)

"F.S.

Let me see before giving it please.

W.S.C.

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Mr. Baxter.

Hankey has left with me the papers dealing with "guidance" for the formation of a Jewish Brigade Group and asked me to put up any suggestions to you. There are three different requests for guidance:-

- (a) for the Ministry of Information (see General Pollock's letter herewith);
  - (b) for the Dominions;
  - (c) for our posts abroad.

Please see also telegram No. 2270, of the 30th September from Lord Moyne, telegram No. 840 of the 4th October from Sir K. Cornwallis and telegram No. 281 Saving of the 1st October from the Earl of Halifax, herewith.

As might be expected, both Bagdad and Cairo ask for some special assurance which will reassure the local inhabitants. I find it difficult to believe that anything we can say will reassure the Arabs, though we might ask the Middle East Division of the Ministry of Information and Cairo and Bagdad to stress that the Brigade Group will be formed and trained outside the Middle East for the purpose of waging war against Germany. While it is not intended to send the Brigade Group to Palestine even for demobilisation, I understand from War Office, S.D.2.a., that the Jews have not yet been informed to this effect and that the Secretary of State for War is unwilling that they should be without a Cabinet decision. In these circumstances, there seems little point in informing either our posts abroad or the Dominion High Commissioners that the Brigade Group will not be sent to Palestine, since if they made use of this information, the Jews would hear in a roundabout way what the Secretary of State for War apparently wishes should remain unsaid.

The marked passage in Washington telegram No. 281 Saving, paragraph 1, might be of interest to the Dominions and to our posts abroad as showing reactions in America.

To sum up. I suggest that:

- (a) A reply should be sent to General Pollock saying that we agree in general with Mr. Hillelson's letter, adding that in the case of the formation of the Jewish Brigade Group emphasis should be laid on the fact that it will be formed and trained outside the Middle East and that the whole purpose of its formation is to enable Jews who might not otherwise be able to do so to take an active part in fighting against Germany.
- (b) An Intel should be sent in the same sense, adding the marked passage in Washington

telegram/

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PHOTOGRAPHI CALLY

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telegram No. 281 Saving. In both cases, War Office, S.D.2.a., should be consulted before any telegram is sent.

Judging by the Prime Minister's minute of the 5th October, there is likely to be a difficulty in providing the assurance for which Lord Moyne asks in his telegram No. 2270. But I feel that we should try to give it, and from the papers I see no Cabinet decision which would prevent such an assurance being given.

> C.A.F. Dundas 7th October, 1944.

10-10

NOTHING

O 9 Reference:
FO 37 | L.O. | L.

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION,
In any further communication on this subject
the following reference should be quoted:

FP 39/28

Your reference:

Dear Hankey

12 067 1944

The september, 1944.

The recent announcement of the formation of a Jewish Brigade group, and the treatment of this subject by the Arabic Service of the B.B.C. has led the Corporation to express certain views on the general subject of treatment of events known to be unpalatable to all or part of their audiences.

Their views are set out in a letter addressed to me on 23rd September from the Director, Near East Services, B.B.C., (Mr. Hillelson). I am attaching to this communication a full copy of Mr. Hillelson's letter, as I feel it might be difficult (and might lead to possible misunderstandings) if I merely quoted the more relevant of Mr. Hillelson's points.

I feel there is a good deal in what he says, and were it possible for us to receive advance information on coming events, with any indication you are able to give of H.M.G.'s policy, it would of course be a very great help to this Ministry and consequently the B.B.C. There are in fact several "unwelcome" subjects likely to arise fairly soon.

I shall be grateful for your views as to how far we should or could meet Mr. Hillelson's suggestions.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Eastwood at the Colonial Office.

Yours sincerely, (

Director, M.E. Division.

The Hon. R. Hankey, Foreign Office.

#### COPY

THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION

Broadcasting House, London, W.1.

Please reply to P.O. Box 4, Boreham Wood, Herts.

07/NES/SH

23rd September, 1944

To: Director, Middle East Division, M. of I. From: Director, Near East Services, B.B.C.

We recently discussed our difficulty about the news item which announced the formation of a Jewish Brigade Group, and we agreed that suppression would have tended to discredit our Arabic Service in the minds of listeners. You advised us to avoid any direct reference to Palestine, and I hope this advice was not meant to be interpreted literally as we could not very well excise mention of the Jewish Agency and of the Palestine Regiment from the official statement.

2. It is worth while in this context to give some thought to the general problem of dealing with events known to be unpalatable to the audience we are addressing, or to some particular group within the audience. Our editors have been taught to approach such cases very gingerly, and there is a natural reluctance to hurt the feelings of listeners, which promotes a tendency to suppress when in doubt. I am sure a policy of silence is wrong and would defeat its purpose, and I should like to quote a note recently written by one of our staff for the guidance of sub-editors:

"Faced with an 'unpleasant' item of news, the thing to do, it seems to me, is to decide whether it can be omitted or whether it must be given on its news value alone. In my opinion our bias should always be in favour of giving it, but there will obviously be many cases where it would be perfectly justifiable to omit entirely. However, if it has to be given it must be given fairly and objectively.

× (Note by brei Gen Polenh.

My edich words were "to play some")

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

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"The obvious reason for bias in favour of broadcasting news even when it is unpleasant is the desire to retain (or regain) a reputation for reliability and objectivity. But I think there is another strong argument as well for such a policy - i.e. that one unpleasant thing is liable to lead to another. If listeners are kept aware of the developing stages of any kind of crisis, it will be less of a shock for them when the crisis comes to a head, and they will also be better informed as to the factors involved and thus less inclined to react thoughtlessly and violently. On the other hand if the crisis doesn't come to a head, then H.M.G. or whoever is concerned can be given credit for being skilful enough to smooth things over."

- 3. This speaks for itself, and it seems to me to be the only line the B.B.C. can take. I think, however, that more could be done to prepare the mind of the public for unpalatable facts, and thus to soften the blow when it falls. The amnouncement about the Jewish Brigade must have come as a sudden shock to Arab listeners (we have evidence of this in the reaction of our own staff) and the unsettling effect which it is likely to have could have been counteracted by giving it a setting of explanatory comment. In the absence of official guidance, and of fuller information on the meaning of it all, it was impossible to comment editorially, and the announcement had to be given just as it stood.
- 4. The subject will no doubt reappear in the news, and in the near future we shall have a good deal about Palestine and Zionism; another case in point is the controversy in the Egyptian press about the future of the Sudan. Can we not anticipate trouble and ensure that we get more background information before the news breaks? This would enable us to take thought before we are faced with an urgent news problem and, in suitable cases, to arrange for authoritative comment with a view to putting the matter in the right light.

I am far from suggesting that we should be apologetic about events or policies just because they might be unwelcome to the Arabs, or that we should pretend that things are other than what they are, but we can at any rate try to speak to the Arabs in a way which shows that we understand and respect their feelings. Such an attitude would be much appreciated and would go far to allay feelings of antagonism created by the policy itself.

ference:
FO 37 1 40 146

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If you agree with this line of thought, perhaps you will consult the Foreign Office and Colonial Office.

(sgd.) S. HILLELSON

C.A.F.D. Dec wilker Colonel Withers, M. O. 4. War Office. MÁRGN. for easy reference. SE Sureces and sureces WRITIEN Con Mrs Oliver My speech?
C.O. (M. Cadimo). I s **M** P 4 NOTING 0

FOREIGN OFFICE. S.W. 1.

Please refer to paragraph 3. of Lord Moyne's telegram No. 2270 and Bagdad telegram No. 840 of which I attach copies

Is there anything which we can say in reply to Lord Moyne and Sir Kinahan Cornwallis about the Jewish Brigade, Mich was not covered in the Prime Minister's

I am sending a copy of this to Eastwood, Colonial Offices to Mrs. Olives

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FOREIGN OFFICE,

OUTFILE

3. W. 1, 12

(E 6232/628/31) Important.

12th October, 1944.

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Please refer to paragraph 3 of Lord Moyne's telegram No. 2270 and Bagdad telegram No. 840 of which I attach copies for easy reference.

Is there anything which we can say in reply to Lord Moyne and Sir Kinahan Cornwallis about the Jewish Brigade which was not covered in the Prime Minister's speech?

I am sending a copy of this to Eastwood, Colonial Office and to Mrs. Oliver at the Ministry of Information.

your eve (Sci)(R.M.A. Henkey)

Lieutenant-Colonel H.G. Withers, M.O.4,

war Office.

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Teles: Number: EUSton 4321.
Teleg: MINIFORM, LONDON.
In any further communication on this subject the following reference should be quoted:—

PP 39/38

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION,
MALET STREET,
LONDON, W.C.I.

9th October, 1944.

Confidential.

Your reference:

6232/628/31

Dear hur Hawkey,

No doubt you have seen telegram No. 812 of 26th September from Bagdad to your department.

I should be grateful if you would let me know what reply you have sent, or intend sending. Before he left for Cairo General Pollock was in touch with the War Office, through the military adviser here, concerning the whole question of the Jewish Brigade and how any announcement concerning it should be handled. The War Office informed us that the Brigade Group is not to be used in Palestine; we asked permission to announce this, as from the Arab angle it is of course a most valuable point. In the first instance, the War Office agreed to the release of this information, but later (I believe at the express request of the Secretary of State for War) the agreement was withdrawn. The Secretary of State suggested that if General Pollock felt strongly that such an announcement should be made, he should take the matter up with his Minister, asking him to raise the matter with the Cabinet. General Pollock did not feel justified in taking such a step at this juncture.

The reason given by the War Office when they reversed their original decision was that the Jewish Agency had not been informed that the Brigade Group would not be used in Palestine, and that it was not considered advisable so to inform them.

I have sent a copy of this letter to Mr. Eastwood of the Colonial Office.

Hon. R. Hankey, Foreign Office.

your meety Janquean O Piver

 Registry No. E

C.A.F.D.

Draft.
Mrs. Oliver,
Middle East
Division,
Ministry of
Information.

(From Mr. Hankey)

WRITIEN

NOTHING

between you & the War Office Last into a fundy military question.
We should like to be hapt informed, & of course we will gladly help you in any way we come as we show you do over meh questions if you want us to help:

Meanwhilm I am witing to the WO. about 1 and M. it 1 40 22

October, 1944.

# OUTFILE

De mo or

With reference to your letter F.P. 39/38, of the 9th October, and General Pollock's letter F.P. 39/28, of the 2nd October, dealing with the question of publicity for the Cabinet's decision to form a Jewish Brigade Group, we feel that the problem of providing/guidance in publicity for such matters as this is one for win Ministry, since you Information receive the necessary regarding public reactions. / We shall of course always be very willing to give any advice or assistance within our power, though in this particular case of the formation of a Jewish Brigade Group, the War Office, being the Ministry concerned, will, we feel, be in a better position to help you understand that General Pollock

at present in the Middle East, but

pernaps you would show nim this letter

Feference:
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by you know the onteons.

As repards Bapdad til. 20.812
I enclose a copy of our reply. It was
suf to Gan. Pollock at the time.

RHAH!

Sa/RMA HANKEY

/4A

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FOREIGN OFFICE.



OUT FILE S.W.1,

(E 6232/628/31)

12th October,

De mo Olivie

With reference to your letter General Policek's letter F.A. 39/28, of the 2nd October, dealing with the question of publicity for the Gabinet's decision to form a Jewish Brigade Group, we fell that the problem of providing publicity guidance over this had better be handled direct between you and the War Office and Colonial Office as it is a purely military question. We should like to be kept informed, and of course we will gladly help you in any way we can, as we always do over such questions if you want us to help.

Meanwhile I am writing to the War Office about Lord Moyne's telegram, No. 2270 and Bagdad telegram No. 840 of which I enclose copies herewith. We will let you know the outcome.

As regards Basdad telegram No. 812 I enclose a copy of our reply. It was sent to General Pollock at the time.

iddle East Division, Sol(R.M.A. Hankey) Ministry of Information.

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on.]

[CYPHER]

### WAR CABINET DISTRIBUTION

# FROM CAIRO (MINISTER RESIDENT) TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Lord Moyne D. 1.29 p.m. GMT 2nd October 1944. No. 2270 30th September 1944. R. 3.20 p.m. BST 2nd October 1944.

Repeated to Jedda, Beirut. Bagdad Jerusalem Saving

222

Shaikh Yusuf Yasin, Saudi representative at Arab conference visited me yesterday evening.

- 2. He stated that Ibn Saud had only finally sent him because he believed His Majesty's Government wished him to be represented at the conference. He assured me that he would do his utmost to keep the discussions on a reasonable level and if the delegates insisted as they probably would, on raising the Palestinian question to see that it was dealt with in a general way and any violent resolutions were avoided.
- 3. He was much concerned about the raising of Jewish Brigade and asked that His Majesty's Government should give some public assurance that there was no intention that it should serve in Palestine either during or after hostilities. (It seems to me this might be done by a question and answer in the House). The Arab fear is that they will remain in Palestine after the war as an organised body which would represent a danger to His Majesty's Government's policy.
- He said that at his interview with King Farouk latter had told him that he saw eye to eye with Ibn Saud and that he thought the present moment inopportune for raising Palestinian question. He was also against holding a further conference until at least after the American election.
- On the question of loan I told him that His Majesty's Government's attitude had not changed and gave him the main points I had made previous day to Syrian Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, namely that there was no change of policy on the part of His Majesty's Government who had always made it clear that freely negotiated treaties in due course were advisable to regularize the position and that there had never been any question of ourselves seeking to take the place of the French in the Levant. Yusuf Yasin asked the interplace of the French in the Levant. Yusur Yasin asked the interpreter to repeat the points twice over in view of King Ibn Saud's receipt of message from Shukry Kuwatli reported in Jedda telegram to you number 360. He asked whether His Majesty's

Minister.....

WITHOUT PERMISSION

Minister at Jedda could have the official confirmation of our attitude to pass to Ibn Saud possibly on the lines of paragraph 2 of your telegram No. 3404 to me.

- 6. Yusuf Yasin enquired what action we would take if as the result of refusing to sign treaties to satisfy the French, the latter were to arrest Levant Government. I told him that lessons of Helleu incident should reassure the King on this matter.
- 7. Yusuf Yasin stated the line he has been instructed by Ibn Saud to take with the Syrian delegates is that there must be no trouble between ourselves, French, and Syrians over the Syrian question.

[Copies sent to Mr. Wiltshire and Major Howell]

OTP

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry No.E6232/628/31

R.M.A.H.

Draining C.
Mrs Oliver,
Ministry of
Information.

from I W How

Madletek Dursi

RMALIE.

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1., October, 1944.

Dear Mrs. Oliver,

With further reference to your letter of October 9th, No. FP/39/38 I have now been able to discuss with General Steel and also with Colonel Withers at the War Office the question of giving further guidance to the Middle East about the formation of the Jewish Brigade.

think of anything further which can usefully be said beyond what the Prime Minister said in Parliament (see our telegram No.475 to Bagdad). We cannot go further than this as requested in Bagdad telegram No. 840 nor for various reasons are we over-anxious ourselves to give further assurances about the use which may be made of the Brigade. So I am afraid there is nothing for it but to continue to take the line which the Prime Minister

took/

O PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

Reference:-

took in Parliament, even though it does not satisfy opinion in Iraq.

Anyhow, the Arab Unity Conference will have taken some of the limelight off the question, and in Egypt and Syria other internal problems certainly loom larger in people's minds at the moment.

JONE M. A. HANKEY

G TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Dear Mrs. Cliver,

FORMIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

18th October, 1944.

With further reference to your letter of October 9th, No.FP/39/38 I have now been able to discuss with General Steel and also with Colonel Withers at the War Office the question of giving further guidance to the Middle East about the formation of the Jewish Brigade.

Frankly, I am afraid none of us can think of anything further which can usefully be said beyond what the Prime Minister said in Parliament (see our telegram No.475 to Bagdad). We cannot go further than this as requested in Bagdad telegram No.840 nor for various reasons are we over-anxious ourselves to give further assurances about the use which may be made of the Brigade. So I am afraid there is nothing for it but to continue to take the line which the Prime Minister took in Parliament, even though it does not satisfy opinion in Trag.

Anyhow, the Arab Unity Conference will have taken some of the limelight off the question, and in Egypt and Syria other internal problems certainly loom larger in people's minds at the moment.

Yours Encerelis (Sd) C.A.F. Dunder

fon (R.M.A. Hankey)

Mrs.N.F. Cliver, Middle East Division, Ministry of Information.

erence:-

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Put w. pp The War Office,

Whitehall, S.W.l.

DO/MO4 Your reference

16 October, 1944

Near Hankey, 6232 62831

Please refer to your letter (E 6232/628/31) of 12 Oct. 44.

I am afraid that there is nothing further that we can add. The only suggestion I can make is that the Cabinet is asked to make some sort of statement.

Sorry not to be more helpful.

Heurs sui early Bewillers

The Hon, R.M.A. Hankey, Foreign Office,

C RECORD OFFICE

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Copy with Mr. N.J.B. Sabine's compliments.

20

Colonial Office, Downing Street, S.W.1.

96841/44.

30th October, 1944.

6232 628

Dear Mrs. Oliver,

Please refer to your letter of the 4th October FP 39/38 to Mr. Eastwood. We have given a good deal of thought to this question, which crops up of course in a good many other connexions, and I wonder whether the best thing would not be for us all to have a talk about it when General Pollock returns. This course would be agreeable to Mr. Eastwood.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) N.J.B. SABINE.

·MRS. N.F. OLIVER.

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MNDEXED

Telephone No.: EUSton 4321
Telegram INIFORM, LONDON."

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION,
MALET STREET

MALET STREET,

In any for it communication on this subject the following reference should be quoted:— LONDON, W.C.1. 2

FP 39/38

4th December, 1944.

1972/1/28/13

Dear Mr. Hankey,

You will remember that General Pollock wrote to you on October 2nd, enclosing a letter addressed to himself by the Director of the B.B.C. Near East Services.

I should be grateful if we might have your views on this important subject of advance guidance, which has cropped up again in connection with Ethiopia. Possibly if might be best if General Pollock were to come and see you?

We sent a copy of General Pollock's letter to you to the Colonial Office; Sabine has replied that he would like to discuss the question with General Pollock. Possibly a three-cornered meeting might be the best solution? I should be grateful if you would telephone and let me know what you think.

Yours sincerely,

Morah Farguhan. Ohver

Hon. R. Hankey, Foreign Office:

1300T 1944 PALESTINE & TRANSJORDAN Enlistment of Palestinians. Registry 6270/628/31 Copy of Palestine telegram No. 611 Saving of FROM Colonial Office 22nd September to Colonial Office, giving details of numbers of Palestinians serving at end of August communicated. 1944. 76147/44 Dated 10th October, Received 13th Oct., 1944. in Registry E: Palestine and Transjordan WITHOUT PERMISSION Last Paper. (Minutes.) E 6232 RHAH 17. 1) C.O. comm'd. (M. 704 of Oct. 24th from Officer administering Got of Palestine) References. 8 H/c Palestine tell 813 Sawing of 6th 7 ac. O T O T T (Print.) (How disposed of.) 9 (Action completed.)

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If 18 10 Next Paper.

27437 F.O.P.

5P.

71/40146 0 Colonial Office Reference No. 76/47/44

With the compliments of the U.S. of S. Colonial Office Colonial Office

Enlistment of Palestinians: Numbers serving at end of August 1944 were as follows:-

Serving in Serving outside Palestine and Palestine and Total Trans-Jordan Trans-Jordan

	Jewe	Araba	Jevs	Araba	Jeta.	Araba
Army	2,664	1,145	9,602	2, 862	12,266	4,007
A.T.S.	630	16	1,652	60	2,282	76
R.A.F.	59	7	1.472	92	1,511	99
Auxiliary Police	24,115	6,341			24, 115	6,341
Royal Navy			1.074	78	1.074	78

These figures do not include 1703 P.O.W. and 70 missing.

Copies sent to:Air Ministry
War Office (M. I. 2a)
" (M. O. 4)

Foreign Office Ministry of Information Major Dewhurst
Major Howell
A.G. Stats (Hobert House)
Mr. C.W. Baxter
Mr. F. Darvall (2)
Professor Driver (2)

700 9

Colonial Office Reference No. 76147/47 Mit wife With the compliments of the U.S. of S. Colonial Office Reference SF/558 40-IV TELEGRAM From: Officer Administering the Government. To Secretary of State. Despetched: 24.10.44 at 1800 hrs. No. 704 TOP SECRET SAVING.

Enlistment of Palestinians: Numbers serving at end of September 1944 were as follows:-

	Pales	ng in tine an -Jordan	Serving outside d Palestine and Total Trans-Jordan			<b>a</b> 1
	Jews	Arabe	Jews	Arens	Jews	Arabs
Army A. T. S. R. A. F.	1,832 630 41	1,058 16 8	10,454 1,626 1,474	2,925 56 94	12,286 2,256	3,983 72
Auxiliary Police	23,618	6,640	ental (		23,618	6,640
Royal Havy	se ficure.	<b></b>	1,080	80	1,080	80

These figures do not include 1,634 P.O.W. and 58 missing.

Copies sent to:-Air Ministry War Office (11.1.2a) (1'.0.4)

Foreign Office

Fajor Dewhurst rajor Howell A.G. Stats (Hobart House) Professor Driver (2)

6270/628

127 NOV 1944

97-07/-0 office Reference No. 76147/44

RI W ph 25

Clear

with the compliments of the U.S. of S. Colonial Office

Date 28.12.44

Reference High Commissioner for Palestine

To: Secretary of State.

6.12.44 at 1300 hrs.

INCEXED

No. 813 Top Secret Saving.

Enlistment of Palestinians.

Numbers serving

at end of October were as follows:-

	Serving in Palestine and Trans-Jordan		: Serving outside : : Palestine and : : Trans-Jordan		en e	
	Jewa Francisco por Alexandro	A 128 DB	PASSING CONTRACTOR CON	Arabs	Jews	Arabs
$\Lambda$ rmy	2146	978	10162	2947	1.2308	3925
A.T.S.	706	12	1535	59	2241	71.
R.A.F.	41	8	1475	97	1516	105
Auxiliar Police	y 23, 376	6978	0024	<b>∀0</b>	23376	6978
Royal Navy	ara.	aps	1081	80	1081	30

These figures do not include 1598 POW and 55 missing.

Copies sent to: -Nar Ministry
War Office (M.I. Sa) /
(M.O.4) /

Foreign Office Ministry of Information

Major Dewhurst Major Howell
A.G. Stats (Hobart House)
Mr. G.W. Baxter
Mr. F. Darvell (2)
Professor Driver (2)

51 6337 17 OCT 1944 PALESTINE & TRANSJORDAN Registry Number Formation of Jewish Brigade Group.

Refers to Foreign Office telegram No. 475 E 6337/628/31. (E 5918/628/31). Transmits copy of note of 24th September from Iraqi Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs and reply of 4th October from Sir Kinahan Cornwallis relating to formation of Jewish Brigade FROM Sir Kinahan Cornwallis (Bagdad). No. 481 (503/28/44). group. Dated 5th Oct. 1944. Received 17th Oct. in Registry 1944. BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION E: Palestine and Transjordan. Last Paper. (Minutes.) E6270 References. (Print.) (How disposed of.) (Action completed.) (Ipplex.) 20/12 Next Paper. F6462 27437 F.O.P.

31120146

Reference:-

TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE 97-07-1-8 

CALLO IVIA JESUV S	Sador at Bagdad  I.M. Principal Secretary In Affairs, London, hit to him the under-mentioned  Sth October, 194.  We WYC or 34/9/W
Description  Name and Date.	of Enclosure.  Subject.
Note No.514 of 4th October, 1944, to Iraqi Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs.  Note No.318/318/13 of 24th September, 1944, from Iraqi Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs	Proposed formation of Jewish Brigade.
E 6337	A G G B

(Copies sent to Jensalem & Min.Res.M.E.)

3479 21952—1 (4)

### ENCLOSURE I IN BAGDAD DESPATCH NO. 481 DATED 5TH OCTOBER, 1944.

COPY.

No. 514.

British Embassy, Bagdad.

4th October, 1944.

My dear Minister,

On receipt of Your Excellency's letter No. 318/318/13 of September 24th, I did not fail immediately to enquire by telegraph of His Majesty's Government the facts concerning the formation of a Jewish brigade to participate in active operations against our common enemy. I now have pleasure in quoting for Your Excellency's information the actual text of the statement made by Mr. Churchill in Parliament on September 28th on this subject, as follows :-

> " The British Army in Italy includes also Palestinian units and here I would mention announcement which I think will be appreciated and approved that Government have decided to accede to request of Jewish Agency for Palestine that Jewish Brigade group should be formed to take part in active operations. I know there are vast numbers of Jews serving with our forces and American forces throughout all armies but it seems to me indeed appropriate that special Jewish unit, a special unit of that race which has suffered indescribable torments from the Nazis, should be represented as distinct formation among the forces gathered for their final overthrow and I have no doubt they will not only take part in the struggle but also in the occupation which will follow. "

In bringing the above to Your Excellency's notice, I would venture to invite your particular attention to the Prime Minister's second sentence in which reference is made to the appropriateness of such a military body, composed of men whose race has suffered such terrible persecution at the hands of the Germans, engaging as a unit in active operations against the latter. I am confident Your Excellency's Government will readily appreciate the importance of this point and I am equally confident that public opinion will not be misled into thinking that there is any other reason for the formation of a Jewish brigade than that given by Mr. Churchill.

> Yours sincerely. (SIGNED) KINAHAN CORNWALLIS

His Excellency Al Saiyid Ahmed Mukhtar Baban, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, BAGDAD.

WI THOUT PERMISSI

Chineses. 

ENCLOSURE II IN BAGDAD DESPATCH NO. 481 DATED 5TH OCTOBER, 1944.

#### TRANSLATION

No. 318/318/13.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

Bagdad. 24th September 1944

My dear Ambassador,

Your Excellency's attention must have undoubtedly been drawn to the contents of Reuter's telegram dated 20th September, 1944, stating that "The British War Office has announced that the British Government has decided to accede to the request of the Jewish Agency for Palestine regarding the formation of a Jewish Brigade to take part in active operations. This infantry brigade will be organised on similar lines to the Jewish battalions of the Palestine regiment...etc., "

As Your Excellency is aware that the Iraqi Government attach great importance to the efforts being exerted by the Zionists in Palestine, I request you to inform me of the facts of this news, and, if it is correct, to indicate to what consequences it is likely to lead.

Yours sincerely,

(SIGNED) AHMED MUKHTAR BABANA

His Excellency Sir Kinahan Cornwallis, G.C.H.G., C.B.E , D.S.O., His Britannic Majesty's Ambassador, BAGDAD.

00 Jewish Brigade; Captain Helpern's proposed visit Registry Number E 6462/628/31 to France. Message from Peake reporting that Captain J. TELEGRAM FROM Mr. Duff Cooper, Paris. Helpern Commissioner for Jewish Army has been instructed by Jewish Army Committee to visit Paris and see General de Gaulle. He also wishes to discuss 282 No. with Jewish leaders question of refugees in France Dated 22nd Oct.1944 and possibilities of recruiting. Requests observations. Received in Registry 33rd Oct.1944 E:Palestine and Transjordan. PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION Last Paper. (Minutes.) E6337 has no standing officeally, that to Euch References. Copie & Co (h. Entured) 4 W.O. (Col. himisamon M I2) (Print.) (How disposed of.) We had bottom prepare a draft reply K. D. boowlas M Col Montgomery (WO) explaining about Helpson and his M 26/10 8) C.O. New 3. (Action completed.) (Index.) J Next Paper.

26513 F.O.P

E6520

E 6462

0707 9 E 6462

[CYPHER]

23007 1944

DEPARTMENTAL No 1

## FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr Duff Cooper

No 282

D. 7.06.p.m.G.M.T. 22nd October 1944

22nd October 1944

R.10.00.p.m.B.S.T. 22nd October 1944

Following from Peake.

Jeremiah Halphern Commissioner for Jewish Army has been instructed by Jewish Army Committee to visit Paris and to see General de Gaulle about Jews fighting for the Allies.

He also wishes to discuss with Jewish leaders question of refugees in France and possibilities of recruiting.

My United States colleague has no observations.

I should be grateful for your views.

OTP

ference:
FO 37 1 4 6

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Registry
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Paris

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NOTHING.

OUT FILE

12 betider - cohtain Helhernis - betider - cohtain Helhernis

TEREMIAH HELPERN (Or

HALPHERN) is a read 2 women!

Whose out inition and regarded with

The greates! surplicion took by

H.M. G. and by the Junish agardy.

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for a Junish army" which he

claims to represent here army

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Brigadie.

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Feference:
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annin collague of the
Harry .
4 A hurthur consideration is that Mr.
shorted of the Senich Agency nearthy wished to trouble to break a owing to
wished to troub to traver + owing to
the sum restrictions on want at
that tim we did not ful able to ask
for a special priority for him - Mr.
shertok would be duply offended of
Capt Helpen were now to receive
special facilitus 5. I have it to your discretion to Flow inform of your American
11 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 a love it
colleague confidentially of the above if
you see no objection.
. M 31/10
도를 받는 것 같아 생각을 받는 것이 되었다. 그는 것이 되었다. 그런

8 52A

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(E 6462/628/31)

[EN CLAIR]

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO PARIS

No. 375 Saving

1st November, 1944.

ddddddd

Your telegram No. 282 [of 22nd October: Captain Helpern's proposal to visit France.]

Jeremiah Helpern (or Halphern) is a New Zionist whose activities are regarded with the greatest suspicion both by His Majesty's Government and by the Jewish Agency. Neither he nor the "Committee for a Jewish Army" which he claims to represent has any official standing in the matter of recruitment for the Jewish Brigade.

- 2. He is associated with the notorious Peter Bergson whose present activities in America are, we understand, causing the American Administration considerable embarrassment.
- 3. In the circumstances I am not prepared to assist Helpern in any way to travel to France.
- 4. A further consideration is that Mr. Shertok of the Jewish Agency recently wished to travel to Paris and owing to the severe restrictions on travel at that time we did not feel able to ask for a special priority for him. Mr. Shertok would be deeply offended if Captain Helpern were now to receive special facilities.
- 5. I leave it to your discretion to inform your American colleague confidentially of the above if you see no objection.

eference:-

53 E 6520 Recruitment in Jewish Brigade Group Reports request received from .local Registry \E 6520/628/31 New Zionist Organisation for information concerning enrolment of volunteers for service TELEGRAM FROM Mr. Vereker, Montevideo in Jewish Brigade Group. Requests material for reply. No. 323 Dated 23rd October 1944 Registry 34th October 1944. H: Falestine and Transjordan. (Minutes.) Last Paper. Colo To W.O. (Col. monl'operant &- MIZ) for Ch E6462 References. The proposal should be trued down, but the W.O. may have (Frint.) should be done (How disposed of.) W.O. (maj. asheren M.I. U) [None work) was - ( ( en elle ) all 4/2]) 3 By - Mai ment of abrusham (bot 5) W.O. (502) Mong 7 7-10-145 Low Tel 1. Koon, 6.00 (in lat) Your (Action completed.) Next Paper. E 65-50 26513 F.O.P

WI THOUT

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

1 2 3 4 5 6

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

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E 6520

[CYPHER]

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1

## FROM MONTEVIDEO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Vereker

No. 328

23rd October, 1944.

D. 11.58 a.m. 23rd October 1944 R. 7.50 p.m. 23rd October 1944

AAA

4

I have been approached by local "New Zionist Organisation" with regard to enrolment of volunteers for service in Jewish Brigade which according to Press Reports has been sanctioned by His Majesty's Government.

2. I should be glad to learn what reply to make to their request.

OTP

BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION 0707 CO

Registry
No.

E 6520/128/31

Draft.

To Solve So

OUT FILE

100 Men 20 323 [5]-23 12/24 - neminai for

Junis Brigad.

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Lerwin for Junish Reg

Zerwin at Arthrey

Zerwin at Response Polytime

Zerwin auxilians.

RMAH, 8

נון ועל נו E.6520/628/31.

[CYPHER]

DEPARTMENTAL NO.1.

### FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO MONTEVIDEO

D. 12.55 a.m. 9th November, 1944.

No. 188 8th November, 1944。

Your telegram No. 323 [of 23rd October - recruitment for Jewish Brigade].

You should reply that recruitment for Jewish Brigade is at present limited to United Kingdom, Palestine and Mauritius. O. T. P.

97107

Registry E 6550/628/31 TELEGRAM FROM Sir K. Cornwallis Bagdad 903 24th Oct. 1944. Dated Received in Registry J 26th Oct. 1944. E: Palestine and Transjordan + Last Paper. E6520 References. E5918 07-07-(Print.) (How disposed of.) 8) mr Eastwood (C.O. (If When (Mor wo) 9 (Action completed.) wyscho

of Tewish Brigade Group: Iraqi re-action

Repeated Middle East Minister; Damascus; Jedda. Refers to his telegram No. 840 (E 6063/628/31) Minister for Foreign Affairs stated, in the course of an interview that he could not regard as sufficient explanation the letter addressed to Deputy Minister during his absence and was therefore about to send further communication. Minister was informed that no useful purpose would be served by such an action particularly as it had already been suggested to His Majesty's Government that a more detailed public statement should be issued.

Wext Paper.

E6609

This is satisfactory, as product as it goes.

Goy Co. (Enclosed)

W.O. (Gl. Williams)

YI (The Ohins) RMAH 23.

26513 F.O.P

E 6550

[CYPHER]

DEPARTMENTAL No.1.

### FROM BAGDAD TO FOREIGN OFFICE

D. 9. 55 a.m. GMT. 25th October, 1944. Sir K. Cornwallis R. 11.30 a.m. BST. 25th October, 1944. No: 903 24th October, 1944.

Repeated to M.E. Min, Damascus (pass to Beirut), 🔻 📜 Jedda.

11111

My telegram No. 840. E 663.

During my interview with Minister for Foreign Affairs today, he told me that he could not regard the incident as sufficient explanation of the letter, which during his absence I addressed to his locum tenens, in giving effect to your telegram No. 475 about the Jewish Brigade. He was therefore on the point of sending me a further communication on this subject in the hope of extracting some more specific explanation from His Majesty's Government.

2. I told His Excellency that in my opinion such action would serve no useful purpose, especially as I have myself already submitted for your consideration a suggestion that at some suitable opportunity a more detailed public statement might be made. Minister for Foreign Affairs undertook in the circumstances to let the matter rest for the time being.

Foreign Office please pass to Jedda as my telegram No. 42.

[Repeated to Jedda No. 211].

TOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION 

E

6609 27001 1944

Registry E 6609/628/31

# FROMForeign Office. Minute Mr. Ross.

7.7

Dated 27th October,

Received 1944.
in Registry 27th October

1944.

E. Palestine and Transjordan

Recruitment in Italy for Jewish Brigade.

Records conversation with Professor Namier of the Jewish Agency, concerning nature of Foreign Office objections to recruitment for Jewish Brigade in Italy. Professor Namier pointed out that there were two questions, the recruitment of Italian Jews and the recruitment of non-Italian Jews at present in Italy. He was informed that objections might be based on fact that the territory was subject to Allied Military authority but that matter would be investigated at once.

Last Paper.

E6550

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

Phase see E5361/G.

I think the best answer to Frof. Namier is that this is a question on which we are in close consultation with the W.O. who are the competent Dept to approach for information. We can say that we have of course abready appreciated the distinction between refugees

remitment of Italian untionals.

2. In no circumstainers should Bof.
Namier be encouraged to pry into the individual spinions of F.O. or W.O. on any particular aspect.

recruitment of refugees in comps in taily o

Perhaps Mr. Ross could reply in the sense of para! above by telephone? We would rather avoid cover.

PMAH. 29
10. 1
Tahan Section.

(Action completed.)

1.)

Next Paper.

E6703

Impormed his hinton of pana 1 lay telephone to-day. It maintained that the W.O. had told Prof Namier to apply to us for information, but I gave him nochange.

hankon 2/1

Professor Namier of the Jewish Agency called on me yesterday evening in the hopes of discovering what the objections were to recruiting for the Jewish Brigade in Italy and who had raised them. He claimed that the unfavourable decision on this point was contrary to what he had been led to expect by the War Office and that the latter Department were not responsible for the reversal of policy. I had an uneasy feeling that the decision was taken on the recommendation of the Italian Section, but Professor Namier went on to did not say so. explain that there were two questions, the recruitment of Italian Jews, which might for all he knew be excluded, and the recruitment of non-Italian Jews, of whom there must be several hundred and of whose presence and maintenance the military and civil authorities in Italy would surely wish to be relieved. He assured me that it would not be necessary to send out any special representative to look into this question if the approval of the competent authorities were once given. I told Professor Namier that I thought it likely that there had been some objection to recruiting for the Jewish Brigade in Italy on the grounds that this territory was a theatre of military operations and subject to Allied Military authority. promised, however, that the new point which he had made would be investigated at once and a reply sent to him or Mr. Linton as soon as possible.

There would appear to be a case for reopening the question, and it might be desirable to ask Mr. Macmillan to ask A.F.H.Q. to consider it, ainse As far as I can remember we did not refer to our people in Italy before taking the decision not to permit recruiting in their territory.

27th October, 1944.

27 001 1944

6609

Margin. this be Written in Nothing to

140146 9

SSIO

TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT

6703 PALETTÀE & TRANSJORDAN Jewish Brigade Group. Registry Number E 6703/628/31. Copy of Commander in Ghief, Middle East, telegram No. Al/53128 of the 20th October, to War Office referring to latter's telegram No.84993 (E 6203/628/31). Submits reasons for turning down suggestion put forward by Jewish Agency and gives details of comparative rates of pay and allowances. War Office, communicated. No. Dated Received lst Nov., in Registry 1944. E: Palestine and Transjordan. Last Paper. (Minutes.) NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT EGGO References. 37-1/40-146 (Print.) (How disposed of.) Addivions. (Action completed.) (Ladex.) W.O commid. (W.O tel no 95707 of 2100 Nov.). W.o. commid (CEC ME LOC A1/65703. of 30:12000) Next Paper. F6705 27437 F.O.P.

56

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

END

43

# SECRET CIPHER TELEGRAM

This message will not be distributed outside British Government Departments or Headquarters or re-transmitted, even in cipher, without being paraphrased. (Messages marked O.T.P. need not be paraphrased).

483283. 19/Gen./539.

Recd. 0530 21 Oct. 44.

From: C.-in-C. Middle East.

To: The War Office. Rptd. A.F.H.Q.

E 6703

IMMEDIATE.

A1/53128 cipher 20 Oct. CONFIDENTIAL.

Your 84993 (A.G.la) of 14 Oct. F. 1203

One. Do not (repeat not) recommend suggestion put forward by Jewish agency for following reasons.

- A. Consider repercussions will follow as stated by you in spite of Mr. Shertok's counter suggestion. Such repercussions may well affect other Colonial or locally enlisted troops raised for active service overseas and not (repeat not) given similar concession.
- B. Terms set out your 84992 (A.G.1a) of 14 Oct. ensure all men serving in same unit whilst under training or in JBG received same rates pay.
- C. Jewish Agency pressed not Fmm JBG (Fmm JBG) therefore should not require further inducement now to produce recruits.
- D. Palestinians when serving in JBG already have advantage over UK personnel by paying income tax at Palestinian rates.
- E. Difficulty if men enlisted for JBG subsequently found unfitted for medical or other reason and have to /serve....

rence: -

971071 9 serve with others not specially enlisted for JBG.

Two. Following observations arise on your 84992 (A.G.1a) of 14 Oct.

Para 1(a). Under existing procedure all personnel enlisted in Egypt receive full U.K. rates of pay regardless where serving.

B. Para (?2) C and 7. This at variance with principle of AO 135/43 (or AON 135/43 para 35(C) and (D) which presumably still applicable to eligible families.

Three. Request immediate confirmation conditions and rate of pay given your 84992 (A.G.la) of 14 Oct. now firm as amended by observations in para two above.

T.O.O. 2020 C.

To: A.G.1(a) (for action). C.6. Telegrams.

Copies to: -

P.S./S. of S. PS/CIGS. PA/DCIGS. PA/VCIGS. PS/AG. PS/QMG. PA/MS PA/ACIGS(O)(W). PA/DMO. D.D.M.O.(A). M.O.1.4.5. D.M.I. D.D.M.I.(I). M.I.2.3.17. D.S.D. D.D.S.D.(A).

S.D. 2(a).
D of O.
D.D. of O(C).
D.M.P. D.D.M.P. A.G.1.(12)2.3.6.7.8.9.10.11.14.17.21.23. Brig. A.G. Co-Ord. D.R.D. A.C.S. D.P.S. D.F. (A) (B) (D) F.1,2.3.4.5.6. Colonial Office (Lt. Col. Rolleston). (Mr. A.W. Clarke). Foreign Office (Mr. R.M.A. Hankey). (Mr. C.W.Baxter). M.P.1.

Q.M.G.F.

## SECRET CIPHER TELEGRAM

Keep with pp

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INDEXED

6703 628 31

From : The War Office. To : C in C Middle East. 19/Gen/539.

Desp. 1300 22 Nov. 44

Repeat to GOC in C East Africa. 6.C. Troops Mauritius A.F.H.Q. (for F.H.G.A.B)

95707 cipher F4(c) 21 Nov Confidential. DEFERRED

Reference Two B your Al/53128 cipher 20 Oct (.) Deliberately decided to make special condition for J.B.G. no married rates Colonial Allowance (:) To give married rates under existing conditions would give undue financial advantage to small section J.B.G. over others in J.B.G. and over British troops serving beside them (.) This special condition and reasons for it was fully explained to and understood by representatives of Jewish Agency in London (.)

T.0.0. 12004/21

Copies to: - B of 0. D.S.D. F.l. DD of O(C)(O)(D) DF(A)(B)(D) F.2. A.G. Co-ord. A.G.l.A. F.3. D.M.P. A.G.3.(D) F.4. D.R.D. A.G.10. F. 6. D.P.S. S.D.2. Q.M.G.F. Colonial Office (Lt.Col.Rolleston) (Mr.A.W. Clarke. ) Foreign Office (Mr.R.M.A. Hankey) (Mr.C.W. Baxter)

40140

9

SECRET CIPHER TELEGRAM

Theep with pp 45 494198. MB-102

This message will not be distributed outside British Government Departments or Headquarters or re-transmitted, even in cipher, without being paraphrased.

(Messages marked O.T.P. need not be paraphrased).

6703 628 3

From: - C in C Middle East.

Recd. 1640 1 Dec 44.

To:- The War Office.

Rptd:- G.O.C in C East Africa.

O.C. Troops Mauritius.

A.F.H.Q. (For FHGAB).

Al/65703 cipher 30 Nov. CONFIDENTIAL.

Your 95707(F4C) dated 21 Nov.

One. Unable understand statement contained in your signal.

Two. We are asking for

A difference between single and married rate colonial allowance and

(B) family ration allowance for families residing outside Palestine of JBG personnel.

Three. As these allowances are already in issue to families other than locally enlisted personnel under authority your 51943 dated 22 July 1943 it is not (repeat not) clear what undue advantage would be gained by families of JBG personnel. Appreciate of course that neither allowance admissable families residing inside Palestine hence the expression "eligible families" in two B our 53128 dated 20 Nov.

T.O.O. 1930 B.

C.6. Telegrams.

Distribution o er.....

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

WI THOUT

To: - F.4.(c) for action

Copies to:- A.G.3.(D)
A.G.1.(A)
Q.M.G.F./D
S.D.2.
F.4.(c)
Colonial Office (Lt Col Rolleston)
Colonial Office (Mr. A.W. Clarke)
Foreign Office (Mr. R.M.A. Hankey)
Foreign Office (Mr. C.W. Baxter)

37-1/40-146

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St. Flore Cond.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

E

E 6705

N NO 1944

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Peference:

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Registry
Number

E 6705/628/

Sl.

War Office,

communicated.

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry | 1st Nov.,

1944.

E: Palestine and

Transjordan.

Last Paper.

E 6763

(Print.)

References.

(How disposed of.)

Jewish Brigade Group.

Copy of Commander in Chief, Middle East, telegram No. Al/55027 of the 27th October, to War Office referring to latter's telegram No. 86231 (E 6203/628/31). Separate training centre is to be established for Jewish Brigade Group in Egypt. Gives details of proposals for identification of Jewish Brigade Group.

(Minutes.)

Egyptian Dyk! to en para!

RMAH 3.

(Action completed.)

PC 1

(Index.)

Next Paper.

E6710 (G)

27437 F.O.P.

# SECRET CIPHER TELEGRAM

435047

Egyption Syl

This message will not be distributed outside British Government Departments or Headquarters or re-transmitted, even in cipher, without being paraphrased. (Messages marked O.T.P. need not be paraphrased).

C in C hiddle East From:

To:

Var Office

Rptd. GOC in C East Africa OC Troops Lauritius AFHQ (For FHGAB)

#### IMPORTANT

1.1/55027 cipher 27 Oct

Your 86231 (1.G1(a)) of 17 Oct.

One. Your fourth. Am establishing separate rft holding and trg centre for Jewish Bde group in Egypt, 'ill 'notify location to East .. frica and Mauritius soonest.

Two. Your fifth. Assume enlistment into GSC not (rpt not) applicable Palestinians recruited in Palestine who will be enlisted into Palestine Regt or Palestine Cadre appropriate arm of service.

Three. Your sixth. Plbase confirm that "J.A" prefix applies only to enlistments in Mauritius. Consider desirable Palestinians retain "Pal" profix.

Four. To ensure essential identification and discrimination from Palestinian units not (rpt not) in Jewish Bde group request A suffix be approved for all personnel of Jewish Suggest suffix "JB". Bde Group.

Five. Your seventh. As records of Palestinian personnel of Jewish Bde group are maintained at Palestine record office Jerusalem consider it would simplify administration if records these recruits from Mauritius also maintained at Jerusalem and not (rpt not) in Egypt.

Six. Please confirm that personnel from Mauritius for discharge or demobilization will be despatched UK and not (rpt not) Mauritius. C.6. (Telegrams).

T.O.O. 0905 C /Distribution.

T O

To :- A.G.la. (for action). Copies to :-

```
Copies to:—

D. of O.
D.S.D.
D.M.P.
D.R.D.
D.F.S.
D.M.O.
A.C.S.
Brig. A.G. Co-ord.
D.D. of O.(O).
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(Mr. A.W. Clarke).
Foreign Office (Mr. R.M.A. Hankey).
     (Mr. A.W. Clarke), Foreign Office (Mr. R.M.A. Hankey), (Mr. C.W. Baxter).
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Reference:-

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Ebyio 195153/ Ebyio 195153/ Maj. Cen. Steele Wo. Ho Mi Baster.  Dated Oct 31 Resed Now 1.	Recuirment for feurish Brigade Promp.  Road Aballong: Rao been pressing  for an interview of unges field of  lecuritment be estended to include Jews  from foreig - enablies of Allied arries.  Althorous way of hered Stackoffi's letter of 23/10,  8 of 5 for what duaft reply of copy of  letter from Mr. Joan Preenberg.
Last Paper.	The papers about menitment abroad are still
(Print.)  (How disposed of.)	circulating. But our attitude as explained to the W.O.  is that we would not be prepared to ask neutral  Goods for of facilities for open reconstruent, since  this would be too obviously contrary to their status as neutrals.  We have said to W.O. that there is no  Foreign Office objection in principle to asking allies if we may entire their sews into the sewish brigade.  But we have made numerous stipulations about  most of the allies individually a said we should  want to consult was the Repr. before any such  suggestion were made to an allied Goot. It is
(Action completed.)  Next Paper.	difficult not to concur in the ## lim taken about our merciting French sews. If there is one thing the French are sticky about it is the right of the state to the military service of their wen of military aspects to the military service of their wen of military aspects.

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RMA Hankry.

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they agree with what w.o. say.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE 97-07-16

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From Maj-Gen J.S. Steele, CB,DSO, MC. (DSD) The War Office,

Whitehall,

3/ October, 1944.

Den Benter

PERSONAL and

CONFIDENTIAL

Lord Strabolgi has for sometime been pressing my Secretary of State for an interview on the question of recruiting for the Jewish Brigade Group. He is anxious that the field of recruitment should be extended to include Jews from foreign countries and from Allied Armies.

I attach at 'A' a copy of his latest letter in which he proposes the formation of two further brigade groups and thus in effect revives his old proposal for the formation of a Jewish Division or an even larger force. The Secretary of State met a deputation headed by Lord Strabolgi in the Summer and explained that we could not undertake anything more than the formation of a Brigade Group.

We intend to adhere to this decision and to our intention to restrict recruiting at present to the United Kingdom, Palestine and Mauritius and at 'B' I enclose the Secretary of State's draft reply to Lord Strabolgi's letter.

We intend to suggest the addition of another class from which the brigade will be formed:-

" (e) A certain number of volunteers from the United Kingdom, Palestine and Mauritius. "

With this amendment I shall be glad if you will let me have your agreement to the draft; my Secretary of State has asked that you

/should ....

C.W. Baxter Esq., Foreign Office.

It dan rate.

should obtain the approval of the Foreign Secretary.

The letter from Mr Ivan Greenberg to which references are made is at 'C' and is chiefly an attack on the Jewish Agency.

I shall be grateful if you will confirm your agreement as soon as possible as my Secretary of State is anxious to send the reply without delay.

I have written a similar letter to this to Eastwood at the Colonial Office.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

97-07-18

FAOM : LOND STRAPOLGI

Tels Abbey 1503 & 5276 Office Kensington 6897 House. IDDESLEICH HOUSE, CAXTON STREET, LONDON, S.W.1.

October 23rd 1944.

Dear Grigg,

I am sure it is only pressure of work which has prevented you from keeping you promise to see me in the near future about the Jewish Brigade Units. Those who have studied the whole situation from the beginning of the war make the following suggestions which I endorse:

Three Brigade units to be formed from

(1) Palestinian Jews now serving in the Jewish battalions with such volunteers as can be spared from their British units. This approximates to the action now being taken.

(2) Jewish units from other allied armies if arrangements can be made with our allies to release a certain number.

This second Brigade unit, it is suggested, would not require very long training.

The third group to be composed of Jewish volunteers not yet serving including those from neutral countries such as the Argentine. They would probably have to undergo six to eight months! training; but we consider even if the war is over by that time they would be able to participate in the occupation of Germany, or may be able to be utilized in the Far East.

I have information that there are a considerable number of Jewish soldiers in France eager to join the Jewish Brigades. A large number have been on active service with the F.F.I. You will also know the position of the numerous Jewish Colonists in French North Africa who are apparently discouraged from serving with the French forces because of the old trouble, or supposed trouble, with the Moslems. I don't know what De Gaulle's attitude would be towards these men, but I suggest it is worth an approach.

I wrote to you fully about the complication which has arisen over recruiting some time ago, and I enclosed a long extract from a letter on this subject from a well informed and reliable person, Mr Ivan Greenberg Editor of the Jewish Chronicle. I have only had an official acknowledgement of this letter, and I should be very glad of your comments in due course, though as I said I do not desire to discuss this matter with you.

Hoping that you will find it convenient to give me time for a short interview with you in the near future.

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) Strabolgi

The Rt Hon Sir James Grigg KCB, KCSI, MP, War Office, Whitehall S.W.1.

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PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

I am quite clear that we ought to see how the present Jewish Brigade scheme works before there can be any question of trying to extend it. This is also the view of the Government.

The present Brigade will be formed from

- (a) the existing Palestinian units
- (b) a certain number of specialists who can only be found from Jews serving in British units
- (c) the Polish deserters who were allowed at the request of the Foreign Office to join the British Army
- (d) a certain number of volunteers from Jews now in refugee camps under British control, e.g. in Mauritius.

As regards (b) the numbers can only be very small because they all have to be replaced from our existing exiguous supply of British manpower. There can be no question of a wholesale transfer of British Jews.

As regards your second category I am not prepared to approach the Allies to ask them to release News now serving in their Armies. We cannot do it ourselves and it would certainly be unfair to ask them to do so. Nor do I think that an approach to de Gaulle to ask him to let us recruit Jews of the F.F.I. or of North Africa into what is after all a unit of the British Army would be likely to get anything but a very frosty answer.

Similarly as regards your third category. I cannot believe that the Foreign Office would look with favour on a request from me to recruit Jews in neutral countries. Quite apart from this it would certainly not be a remunerative effort to go through all the business of recruiting, shipping and training people who could only be ready to fight long after the war with Germany is (we hope) over.

Altogether I am sure it would be wise to bring the present project to success before we think of embarking on any of the not very promising complications you suggest.

As regards Mr Ivan Greenberg's letter I must say that it seemed to me to consist largely of abuse of the Jewish Agency. I certainly must excuse myself from expressing any agreement with him on that matter.

I have written you at length because it seems to me that there should be no doubt as to where I stand. I hope that you will feel able to agree with what I have said and leave matters where they are at all events until we see how the first Brigade turns out.

The Lord Strabolgi.

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Government's creation of a Jewish Brigade Group, which I think calls for immediate action on your part. Although the subject is somewhat delicate, it is none the less of great importance and since it may have a considerable effect upon the military efficiency of the proposed Brigade Group, and since one of the primary interests of the Committee for a Jewish Army, of which you are President, has been solicitude for the prestige of the Jewish people, as affected by its recognised participation in the present war, I feel that you have adequate locus standi to deal with this matter.

It appears that the influence which the Jewish Agency will have in matters of personnel connected with the new unit, will be considerable. As you know, the Jewish Agency is to all intents and purposes synonymous and co-extensive with the Zionist Organisation, indeed only the other day I was talking to one of the members of its Executive, who vigorously stressed that there was no difference between the two bodies for practical purposes.

A very large proportion of the fighting troops in the proposed Brigade, however, do not belong to any of the political parties in Palestine, which are represented in the Zionist Organisation and therefore on the Jewish Agency. Unfortunately, however, since the days of the formation of the cadres at Sarafan, political considerations have been allowed to creep in, in the matter particularly of the selection of officers and senior N.C.Os. To put the matter quite bluntly, there was a political test quite above any military consideration, which resulted in the higher posts very frequently going not to the best soldiers and on the other hand to the best men being kept out of responsible ranks.

As you are aware, some 30,000 Palestinian Jews volunteered for military service. After deducting those who were rejected on physical grounds, those who were only fit for Home Service, or Home Cuard work, the women, and the prisoners of war, you are left with some 14,000 Palestinian Jews available for the Brigade. Of this number 5,000 or a little over a third, are not members of the political parties represented in the Jewish Agency. Of the officers so far appointed, 200 have been created from amongst those who belong to Jewish Agency parties and only four of those who do not.

I think these figures are eloquent. They certainly can give you some idea of the feeling which is gathering amongst the 5,000 who are either members of political groups in opposition to those included in the Jewish Agency, or are men who wish to have nothing to do with politics at all.

It is now feared, with the recognition of the Agency as having some sort of locus standi to be recognised by the military authorities in connection with the Group, that Jewish Agency parties will perpetuate this system of discrimination and the feeling of frustration and discontent amongst the minority will increase with serious results.

You need not doubt that like every same person, I utterly deplore the introduction of politics in any form into a military unit of this kind. To my mind, it is disastrous to try and mix party politics with fighting in this way. If you will remember, it was the bugbear of the Parliamentary Army before Cromwell took control and then he stamped upon it mercilessly, and produced that military marvel, the New Model.

I do not feel very happy as a patriotic Jew, in having to

/ask ....



ask you to take up this matter discreetly with the War Minister. But on the other hand, when I think of the centuries during which promotion in so spiritual a sphere as the Church of England depended entirely upon the politics of the man or his family I feel there is nothing really to be ashamed of in such inevitable phenomena at a certain stage in political development.

Reference:
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E\_6807 Registry E 6807/628/31 Recruitment for Jewish Brigade Group in Egypt. Transmits copy of letter from Albert Staraselski (New Zionist Movement Cairo) of 5th October offering to recruit Jews in Egypt and copy of acknowledgement FROMMr. Shone, Cairo. No. 1234 (1426/2/44) of 21st October. Dated 22nd Oct.,

Received 6th Nov.,
in Registry 1944. E: Palestine and Transjordan Last Paper. (Minutes.) 294/10 24.0. [Minutes]
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MF No. 1234

(1426/2/44) minister

His Majesty's Anchusexdor presents his compliments to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and has the honour to transmit herewith copies of the undermentioned paper.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
CAIRO.

22nd Oct. 19 44

Reference to previous communication:

Description of Enclosure.

Name, Date, etc.

Subject.

From:Albert
Staraselski,
New Zionist
Movement
Cairo.
of 5.10.44.

enlistment of of Jewish volunteers in Egypt for the Jewish Brigade.

To: ditto

No.1426/2/44

of 21.10.44.

(16864) Wt.35013/683 5,000 1/41 A.&.E.W.Ltd. Gp.685

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THE NEW ZIONIST ORGANISATION (Egypt Branch)
4 Midan Mustafa Kamel Pacha

Cairo le 5 octobre 1944

& Son Excellence Lord Killearn of Killearn, Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté Britannique Le Caire.

Excellence,

A la suite de la décision, officiellement annoncée par le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, de créer une Brigade juive, j'ai l'honneur de réiterer l'offre, que j'avais précédemment eu l'avantage de vous soumettre, de lever un corps de vokontaires juifs en Egypte.

Je suis convaincu que, si l'occasion leur en était offerte, on pourrait trouver un nombre substantiel de Juifs en ce pays - notamment parmi les apatrides, les citoyens des Nations Unies qui n'ont pas été affectés par la mobilisation de leurs autorités respectives ainsi que les ressortissants de Puissances neutres, - pour répondre avec enthousiasme à l'appel d'aller combattre l'ennemi commun.

Naturellement, je suis prêt à m'inscrire en têté de liste et à assumer toutes les tâches pratiques pour la campagne de crecrutement.

Dans l'attente d'une réponse favorable, je vous présente, Excellence, l'assurance de ma respectueuse et très haute considération.

(Sgd.) ALBERT STARASELSKI

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jetence. -

1426/2/44.

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Slat Cetober, 1944.

Sir,

I am directed by His Majesty's Minister to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 5th October, 1944, copy of which has been forwarded to the competent authorities.

I am, Sir, Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd.) B. A. B. BURROWS

FIRST SECRETARY.

Monsieur A. Staraselsky, New Zionist Organisation, 4, Midan Mustafa Kamel Pasha, C A I R O.

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eference:-

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

E\_6808 NCV 1944 PALESTINE Registry 6808/628/31 Recruitment in Egypt for Jewish Brigade Group. FROMMr. Shone, Refers to his despatch No. 1234 of 22nd October (E 6807/628/31). Transmits copies of correspondence Cairo. with Commander-in-Chief, Middle East regarding Mr. No. 1252 Stareselski's proposal to recruit a body of Jewish volunteers in Egypt for Jewish brigade. Enquires (1426/4/44)Received 26th Oct., what reply should be returned to his letter advising that it should be rejected. Copied Resident 6th Nov., in Registry } Minister Middle East. Acting High Commissioner for 1944. Palestine and General Paget. E: Palestine and Transjordan Last Paper. (Minutes.) E6807 References. remitment in ligger han is no nemen sky we stid. dissent: The flux. has fusile aptimists income how how my on ligh limiters have (Print.) (How disposed of.) 8/C.O. Nov 8 me wayshing ( with 1=6807) (Action completed.) (Index.) mHM 23/11. Next Paper. E6842 27437 F.O.P.

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WAS/MF No.1252 (1426/4/44) BRITISH EMBASSY, CAIRO.

26th October, 1944.

E 6808

E6451

with reference to my despatch No. 1234 of October 22nd, I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of correspondence with the Commander-in-Chief, Middle East Forces regarding the proposal of Mr. Staraselski, the representative in Egypt of the New Zionist Organisation, to recruit a body of Jewish volunteers in Egypt for the Jewish Brigade.

2. May I please be informed as soon as possible what reply should be given to Mr. Staraselski? I suggest that a reply on the lines of the last paragraph of General Paget's letter would be most appropriate.

J. I am sending copies of this letter to the Minister Resident in the Middle East, the Acting High Commissioner for Palestine and General Paget.

I have the honour to be
With the highest respect,
Sir,
Your most obedient, humble Servant,

Thendhore

The Right Honourable Anthony Eden, M.C., M.P., etc., etc.,

Sir,

140146

ference:-

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1426/2/44

BRITISH EMBASSY MAIRO.

21st October, 1944.

Dear General,

I enclose herewith a copy of a letter addressed to the Ambassador by Mr. Staraselsky, the head of the Egypt branch of the New Zionist Organisation, suggesting the enlistment of Jewish volunteers in Egypt for the Jewish Brigade.

You no doubt know about the New Zmionist Organisation, which is an extremist body and is supposed to be connected with the Irgun Tsvai Leumi.

Hitherto it has been our policy not to accept Egyptian volunteers except for non-combatant branches of the Army. There remain the categories indicated by Mr.Staraselski in the second paragraph of his letter and any Palestinians who might happen to be in Egypt. Any public recruitment of Jews in Egypt would be disliked by the Egyptians and might well provoke feeling against the Jewish colony. Moreover the New Zionist's organisation is hardly a suitable body for raising a "Corps" of Jewish volunteers anywhere.

I should be grateful for your views as to the answer which should be returned to Mr.Staraselski.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) TERENCE SHONE

General Sir Bernard Paget, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.C., Commander-in-Chief, Widdle Rest Forces

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C-in-C/546

BENERAL HEADQUARTERS, MIDDLE EAST FORCES.

23rd October, 1944.

Dear Shone,

Thank you for your letter WAS/MF 1486/2/44 of 21st October.

I am opposed to this proposal, and I think it would be quite wrong to allow an extremist body such as the New Zionist Organization to have anything official to do with recruiting of Jews in a Moslem country. It would almost certainly lead to trouble.

The only organization for recruiting of civilians for the Jewish Brigade Group should be the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) B. PAGET.

His Excellency T.Shone, Esq., British Embassy, Cairo.

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Registry \ Number \ E 6842/628/31 FROM War Office. No.0143/4749/502) Dated 4th November, Received 1944.
in Registry 7th November 1944. E: Palestine and TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION Transjordan. Last Paper. Ebsos References. 0707 (Print.) (How disposed of.) 0 (Index.)

E\_6842 图似 物類

Recruitment in Jewish Brigade Group.

Refers to Foreign Office letter of 25th October (E 6520/628/31) InformSthat recruiting for Jewish Brigade Group is at present restricted to United Kingdom, Palestine and Mauritius.

(Minutes.)

(Action completed.)

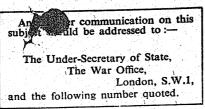
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Tel. No.-Whitehall 9400.



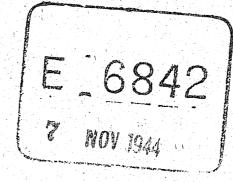
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THE WAR OFFICE, LONDON, S.W.1.

A November, 1944.

SECRET



Sir,

With reference to your E 6520/628/31 of 25th October which asked for comments on Mr Verekers telegram No 323 from Montevideo, I am commanded by the Army Council to say that recruiting for the Jewish Brigade Group is at present restricted to the United Kingdom, Palestine and Mauritius and that it is not intended at present to extend it to other countries.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

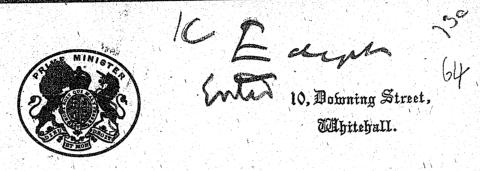
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The Under Secretary of State, Foreign Office, Whitehall, S.W.1.

6844 1944 Flag for Jewish Brigade. Registry E 6844/628/31. Encloses copies of letters exchanged between Prime Minister and Dr. Weizmann concerning flag FROM Mr. Martin (No.1b) for Jewish Brigadem original design of which has to Mr. Lawford. been approved by War Cabinet. Copied Sir E. Bridges and Private Secretaries at Colonial Office No. and War Office. Dated 1st November, 1944. Received in Registry 17th November, 1944. E: Palestine and Transjordan. Last Paper. (Minutes.) Als. 9 41 FLGG42 he within References. 1) complete by P.M. of 315" Oct. The Prime trivials within the Secretary of that I be In Wingmann's (Print.) letter of 0 to be 31 to ( flog E within). (How disposed of.) Emplind for 10 101 Intervibra for (Action completed.) (Index.)

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1 November, 1944

No dead Canford.

I enclose copies of letters exchanged between the Prime Minister and Dr. Weizmann about the flag for the Jewish Brigade.

I am also sending copies to Sir Edward Bridges and to the Private Secretaries at the Colonial Office and the War Office.

Jews.

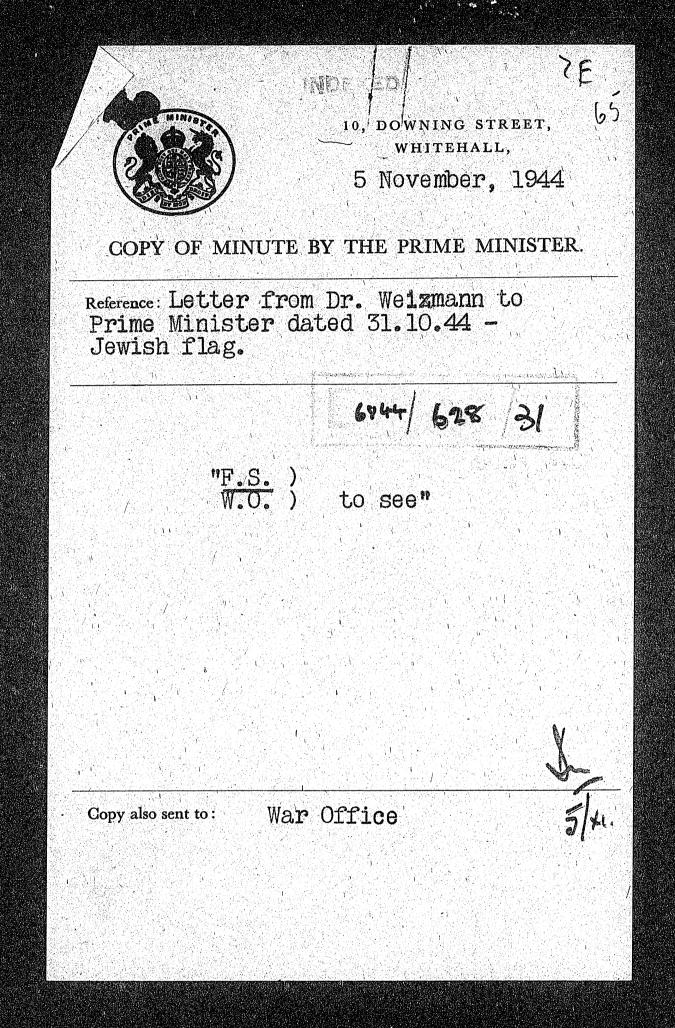
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Jews.

Lawford, Esq.,

Foreign Office.

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October 28, 1944

My dear Dr. Weizmann,

I think it would be better to adhere to the original design for the flag for the Jewish Brigade, which you sent me with your letter of August 10 last.

I am glad to inform you that this design has been approved by the War Cabinet. As a matter of convenient administration, it would be better that the flag should not be flown in Egypt. But authority is being given for the Jewish Brigade to fly it as soon as they land in Italy.

Yours sincerely, (Sgd) Winston S. Churchill

Dr. Chain Weizmann, IL.D.

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erence:-

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COPY

THE JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE

77 Great Russell Street,

London, W.C.1.

31st October, 1944

The Right Hon. Winston S. Churchill, P.C., M.P., 10 Downing Street, S.W.1.

My dear Mr. Prime Minister,

I beg to thank you for your very kind letter of the 28th October. I am happy to hear that the flag has been sanctioned, and have taken note of your remark about the administrative difficulties of displaying it in Egypt. I have duly informed our office in Jerusalem of this point as well as of the main decision.

With very kind regards,

I am

Yours sincerely, (Sgd) Ch. Weizmann.

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Jewish Brigard views.

This note is the result of a meeting est W.O. which I altered a at which I was invited to claborate our attitude to foreign reconstruct.

2. I think the note will do with amendments shown but would be glad to know that depti concerned agree. This is a difficult of contentions question on which W.O. are being heavily presend by ferrish Agency of I think it is important that the advice given to the S/S for war sold be unavailable.

Central Dept (for European Neutoals & Allers)

Southern Dept (Batkans) (Turkey).

Italian Section - phase see also E 6609 annual

Refugee Dept 3/11

S. American Dept 3/11

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to risk the complications which muld inentably arise fur claribe secretainent. Value facts or Mas are we to feshals the American muld be saddled with all such responsibility Angeliere. I my much doubt whether AFAQ in Italy will wish to a soltred with reconstruct of vas was in the territories under their administration. I should hope thee for That's what that gen: bile a world be consulted the druft says byene omy mælaksigs en gins fo the Jurish refusetations. I should also hope that if wedo nowit I take Vews we shall first secur to Italian Port's consent to take back any Tens whom be contrally demotiblize; that could be preferrable to having to free them to take the Jes back under the Kenn of the eventual peace treaty. h s with aus

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

9

blick Mr. Proww COMPANYS RMAL.

I can at sar at this stage ( nothanky Gen in on it before) that the whole plan cuto light a cross the contentan which Repres Dept. have carristenthy upheld ( I made It again only yesterday in talking to the Tourish Agency) that a Jew to a Jew & race and not by nationality, and that, e.g. if he is a Hurarian rational, the standard by which we measure the tratment accorded to him is, Whether it squares with that according to his fellow Hungarians. It would, I think, be ver unfortunate if the Germans were able to claim that, say, a Hungarian Tew Who had escaped and got to some other country Con conceinably to Talestine) was thereup on signed up to fight against Germany under British austices. Bang would go all an hopes fever getting any more Tens at of German clutches. I praser 2/11

Take it that to fer as Latino America is conserved There is to be hu departure from \$ 2 g/heletter bw.o. 16/ix. sh! it not be made clear en the ompt hote

S.V. Procone If this is now approved we will tell W.O. 3/X/

M 6/11

A. Special problems arise as regards reconitional on the timitory of this which is a military zone. Examples of trance. It would be essential to the Cinc (in the complex given make some that the Eisenhower) sow no objection before any researchment were most for mernitment in such timitories. Similar considerations would apply to liberated parts of Poland a Guelrodovakia, where soviet military concurrence would be essential.

B. It would however be desirable to exercise very

great disention in enrolling any leurs excaped

from enemy controlled tenitory, as this wift

would artainly become known to the German

Gort a pripaler all further hope of rescuing

tem four every traitory.

Reference:FO 37 1 4 6
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The War Office,

Whitehall,

S.W.1.

Ref: 0143/4749(SD2)

27 October, 1944.

Reed 19

Dear Hankey

I attach the draft note for the Secretary of State on the considerations involved in an extension of the field of recruiting for the Jewish Brigade Group. The draft has already been circulated within the War Office and has been agreed by the War Office representatives at D.S.D's. meeting on 13th October.

I shall be most grateful if you will let me have your comments on it with any suggested amendments. I shall then prepare the final note for the Secretary of State and will let you have copies of it.

I have sent copies to W.W. Clarke Esq of the Colonial Office and S.O. Gray Esq of the Dominions Office.

Jours sincerely.

AMV. Bird.

R.M.A. Hankey Esq, Foreign Office, Downing Street, S.W.1.

#### DRAFT

# RESERVITMENT FOR THE JEVISH BRIGADE GROUP.

House of Lords in July put forward grandiose proposals for the recruitment of Jews from all over the world. The Jewish Agency's proposals are more modest, but they, too, have suggested recruiting in many countries. At present, however, in spite of the efforts of the various Jewish bodies to extend it, recruiting for the Jewish Brigade Group has been confined to the United Kingdom, Falestine and Mauritius.

The 3 of 5 dealt with Lord Strabolgifa proposals when he received his deputation on 1 July (see Flag 'A'). He made it clear then that the formation of anything larger than 37 were the Con MATA Johnson Of anything larger than a hour of anything larger than the formation of anything larger than the formatio

- (a) of training so many men at a time when every man is wanted in the
- (b) of the time required to get a large formation ready
- (c) of extracting Jews from other countries
- (d) of transportation.

Lord Strabolgi is now returning to the charge provide question of requirement for the Brigade Group and is again seeking an interview with him; all the following is an examination of the proposal to extend recruiting to other countries. It is divided into three parts:

Part I Consideration of the various countries

The Light II. I were the consideration of the light the constitution of the constituti

The Land day long to the constitution of the way day bands in the constitution of the

A. ALLIAN CONTRIES ... Last plant in par

The Foreign Office would have no objection to recruiting in the United States and other Allied countries, if it were carried out with the permission of the government concerned. No approach would be made to the Governments concerned without previous consultation with his Majesty's Representative to the Governments who might know of local objections to recruiting.

It is considered that any Government is entitled to the first claim to
the services of all Jews whether nationals or refugees who are residing in their

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Ambassador.

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country. Manpower is so short in all Allied countries that they must be expected to require to retain all their resources and if an Allied Government is not prepared to accede to a request to permit Jews to volunteer for the Brigade Group, the Foreign Office will not be prepared to press for it.

- operations but part of Italy has been handed over to the Italian Government and the Jewish Agency estimate that there are over 600 refugees in the South of Italy and about 1,000 Italian nationals who would be willing to volunteer for the Brigade Group. The Foreign Office would have no objection to recruit—office have or other hard party made ment/in Italy, provided the permission of the Italian Government were obtained.

  Naturally, General Wilson would have to be consulted before any steps are taken. The FO. would have no objection to mentioned from apages. Campa in Italy, provided the Report authorities continued appear in Italy, provided the Report authorities continued appear in Italy.

  C. NON HELLICERENT NEUTRALS.
- 7. Turkey. It is not thought that there would be many Jewish refugees in Turkey. The Turks have always taken good care not to harbour refugees and where Jews > have stayed in Turkey they will have remained for some purpose and will be unlikely to wish to leave. The Foreign Office, would, however, be prepared discreetly to approach the Turkish Government after first consulting H.M.

MINNE FAST COUNTRIES

3. Minney Trag Egypt and Libya. The French have allowed limited ordinary western for allied forces in the Levent State.

The French have allowed limited ordinary recruiting in Syria but have always insisted that the men enlisted be used for dilution. They might possibly agree that Syrian Jews should be allowed to join the Brigade Group but there are the following serious objections to recruiting in Syria and in Egypt, Iraq and Libya:

Comisdor that recombined in these countries would had to comisdor that recombined in these countries would had to wide product that the transported and to allow recruiting in these

- Arely in falutime this would increase linsion in the M.E. of countries would lead to widespread trab fears and to increased tension.

  (b) It is deliberal whether the Governments of Iraq and Egypt would agree to a proposal to recruit in these countries.
- (c) Jows in these countries belong to the Mast rather than the West and their standard of living is lower than that of the Western Jew. It would be most inadvisable to set this type of Jew alongside the Western European Jew in the Brigade Croup.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE 1 2 3 4 5 6

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- '9. <u>Persia.</u> It is not considered that there are many Jews who would volunteen in Persia, and in any case there are two objections to such a course :-
  - (a) there would be difficulties in arranging transport across Iraq, the IraqiCovernment have already raised difficulties in the case of other refugees
  - (b) It is undesirable to fuse two types of Jew in the same formation (see (c) of 8 above).

#### S. EUROPEAN MINTHALS

- 10. Office Recruitment would not be permitted in these countries as it would be an infringement of neutrality. The Foreign Office aggrested that in some of the total countries recruiting saight be allowed in a quite unofficial way, but it is considered that such a method of recruitment is not desirable. The transport difficulties would preclude the enlistment of any number from these countries (e.g. Swedin and in any case, Allied nationals and escaped PV would have first claim to stringed any transport available from them. The same applies to such Latin American Malia as are not believed.
  - 11. In general this is an area of operations and recruitment is not desirable at present. The Foreign Office have pointed out that
    - (a) In the case of Jugo-Slavia, recruitment might be permitted after consultation with/Tito.
    - (b) In the case of the defeated enemies the consent of Russia, probably the United States and of the Government of the country concerned, would have to be obtained.
    - (c) The situation in Greece is too uncertain for us to consider thought recruitment there at present. It is these unlikely that there are more than a handful of tense there.
  - at the same time it is possible that the Dominions Governments might agree in some cases to their volunteering for the Brigade Group. The Jewish Agency have already raised the question of Jews in South Africa and the Dominions Office are asking the Union Covernment for their views through the High Commissioner. It has been agreed that the other belligerent Dominions should be told of the formation of the Brigade Group but that they should not be asked about recruitment unless specific requests are made.

0 0 9

#### REFUGEES IN UNRRA CAMPS IN NORTH AFRICA

There would probably be no objection to recruitment from these camps 13. if the other United Nations agree, but it is extremely doubtful whether any suitable recruits would be forthcoming from them.

#### GENERAL CONSTITURATION

- There are grave security objections to too great an extension of the field of recruitment. To bring in men from all over the world and especially from Central Europe will present to the enemy an opportunity for The destroy recruitment must be selective; it should be confined to Who witiis do Jews and not opened to the Eastern Jew with his lower standard of living.
- Present procedure for enlistment from foreign countries. Under the overseas manpower scheme volunteers are able to be brought to this country for erillations; this shiene has not been given any publicity and is at present only available to men who offer themselves. Originally it was open to British subjects only but has now been extended to aliens. It is possible for Jews in Foreign countries to avail themselves of this scheme.
- Attestation. Attestation under the overseas mempower scheme is carried out in this country and it is not possible to guarantee that wolunteers will enlist on arrival. If a large scale of recruitment of Jews were allowed it might be advisable to arrange for their attestation before they leave for they would not then be able to refuse to join the Brigade this country: Group.
- Totalinge has now been made in the immigration policy. Immigration Folioy. So far immigration has only been allowed from onemy countries. Now the Jewish Agency have just arranged for 600 refugees from Spain and Portugal to go to Palastine and further vacancies have been granted as follows :-

Attitude of the contract of th

	Roumania and Bulgaria	5,000	in the second of
	Italy	900	
	France (children)	2,000	
a digital di mangana d Mangana di mangana di m	Switzerland (children)	1,000	ang kanang kanang dipanggan panggan pa Panggan panggan pangga
	Belgium (mostly children)	200	er en formalise (en le filosofie) La companya (en le filosofie) La companya (en le filosofie)
	Yemeni Jews in Adon	1,000	
	Turkey (mostly children)	200	
	이 번째로 되는 사이를 되는 이번 때	10,300	

/This .

This extension of immigration will remove some of the arguments for recruiting in other countries as it will enable some of the refugees, from which it is suggested we should obtain recruits, to go to Palestine and there volunteer for the Brigade Group. It should be noted, however, that not more than 1,500 immigrants will be allowed into Falestine in any one month.

Disposal of men on demobilisation. The greater the number and wardety of recruits, the greater will be the problem of settlement on demobilisation of the Brigade Group. Only the men who have enlisted in Palestine or who are granted permits will be allowed to settle in Palestine.

#### CONCLUSIONS.

- As it has been decided to form only a brigade group, wholesale recruiting 19. is not required and should be limited to the requirements of the Brigade Group.
- Opun Recruitment in neutral countries would be an infringement of their neutrality and the Foreign Office would not be prepared to ask for it. revised immigration scheme will allow refugees from Spain to volunteer for the Brigade on arrival in Palestine.
- Recruiting in the countries of Bastern Europe and the Middle Bast (with the 200 exception of Falestine) cannot be permitted because :
  - in the ME (onlinde Palestine) The Jews are mostly of an oriental type with a lower standard of living than the Jews from the West.
  - in ME consisten (b) The recruitment of Jews would lead to widespread Arab fears and would increase tension in the Middle East.
  - (c) Recruiting in the Balkans is not considered desirable and the for il need first is reduced by the change in the immigration Policy which allots 5,000 places to Roumenia and Bulgaria,
  - It is not considered that any worth while number of Jews would be forthcoming from Turkey.
- If HM Representatives with Allied Governments agree, the Foreign Office 220 would be prepared to ask for permission to obtain recruits from Allied countries. It is considered that Allied Governments have first claim on their Jewish nationals and refugees and if they are unwilling to agree, the Foreign Office week to would not press them.
- objection to recruitment in Italy but the need for this is reduced by the 23. revised immigration scheme which allots places to refugees in Italy who will be

/able ...

WI THOUT 

able to volunteer on arrival in Palestine.

- The possibility of recruitment in South Africa is being taken up with 240 the Union Government.
- For security reasons the field of recruiting should be as limited as 25. far as possible.

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Registry **E6893** 95 9 8 No.

T.W.

02

Draft.
Mr. Bird,
War Office.

8 November, 1944.

With reference to your letter of 27th
October, No. 0143/4749(S.D.2), we have made
the following alterations in the draft.

Paragraph 5: Add at the end:-

"Special problems arise as regards recruitment on Allied territory which is a military zone. Examples of this are Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg and parts of France. It would be essential to make sure that the Commander-in-Chief (in the examples given General Eisenhower) saw no objection before any arrangements were made for recruitment in such terri-Similar considerations would tories. apply to liberated parts of Poland and Czechoslovakia, where Soviet military concurrence would be essential".

<u>Paragraph 6, line 6:</u> After "recruitment" insert "of Italian Jews or other Jews freely resident".

Line 7: After "General Wilson" insert "and Sir N. Charles".

At the end of the paragraph, add:-

"The Foreign Office would have no objection to recruitment from refugee camps in Italy, provided the refugee authorities concerned agree. It would, however, be desirable to exercise very great discretion in

enrolling/

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enrolling any Jews escaped from enemycontrolled territory, as this would certainly become known to the German Government and prejudice all further hope of rescuing Jews from enemy

Insert before paragraph 8 "Middle East

Countries" in capitals - Rolling subsqual blacking and

Paragraph 8, first word: Instead of "Syria", put "Levant States".

Paragraph 8, line 2: After "recruiting" add "for allied forces in the Levant States".

Paragraph 8 (a): After "Foreign Office" erase the whole sentence and put: "consider "that recruitment in those countries would lead "to widespread Arab fears that the Brigade would "be used after the war to the detriment of Arabs "in Palestine and this would increase tension "in the Mid dle East".

Paragraph 8, (b): The first five words should read: "It is /very unlikely that". After "Government of Iraq" insert "or" instead of "and".

Paragraph 10: Before "recruitment" in the first line add "official".

Line 2: Omit sentence beginning "The Foreign Office" and replace it with a sentence "Clandestine recruitment is not desirable".

Line 5: After "any number from" insert , "some of" and after "these countries" insert "(e.g. Sweden and Switzerland)".

Line 7: After "available" add "from them".

Then/

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NOTHING

Then add following at end of paragraph: "The same applies to such Latin American" States as are not belligerent".

Paragraph 11 (a), line 2: Before "Tito" insert "Marshal"?

Paragraph 11 (c): Add "It is thought most unlikely that there are more than a handful of Jews there".

Paragraph 20; line 1: Before "recruitment" add "open".

Paragraph 21 (a), line 1: after "the Jews" add "in the Middle East (outside Palestine)".

Paragraph 21 (b), line 1: After "Jews" insert "in Middle East countries".

Paragraph 22, last line: After "would not" insert "wish to".

Paragraph 23: Alter opening sentence to read as follows: "The Foreign Office would "have no objection to recruitment in Italy, "provided the Italian Government agree, or "in refugee camps there, provided the "competent refugee authorities agree. But "the need for this . . . ".

SMAH ?

Y

8

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W. 1.

8th November, 1944.

(E 6893/95/G)

Dear Bird

with reference to your letter of the 27th October, No. 0143/4749(S.D.2), we wish to suggest the following alterations in the draft.

Paragraph 5: Add at the end: -

"Special problems arise as regards recruitment on Allied territory which is a military zone. Examples of this are Belgium, Holland, Luxemburg and parts of France. It would be essential to make sure that the Commander-in-Chief (in the examples given General Eisenhower) saw no objection before any arrangements were made for recruitment in such territories. Similar considerations would apply to liberated parts of Poland and Czechoslovakia, where Soviet military concurrence would be essential."

Paragraph 6, line 6: After "recruitment" insert "of Italian Jews or other Jews freely resident."

Line 7: After "General Wilson" insert "and Sir N. Charles".

### At the end of the paragraph, add: -

"The Foreign Office would have no objection to recruitment from refugee camps in Italy, provided the refugee authorities concerned agree. It would, however, be desirable to exercise very great discretion in enrolling any Jews escaped from enemy controlled territory, as this would certainly become

Lieutenant-Colonel
A.S.W. Bird,
War Office.

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become known to the German Government and prejudice all further hope of rescuing Jews from enemy territory."

Insert before paragraph 8 a new heading "D. Middle East Countries" in capitals and re-letter subsequent headings accordingly.

Paragraph 8. first word: Instead of "Syria", put "Levant States".

Paragraph 8, line 2: After "recruiting" add "for allied forces in the Levant States."

Paragraph 8 (a): After "Foreign Office" erase the whole sentence and put: "consider that recruitment in those countries would lead to widespread Arab fears that the Brigade would be used after the war to the detriment of Arabs in Palestine and this would increase tension in the Middle East."

Paragraph 8, (b): The first five words should read:
"It is very unlikely that". After "Government of
Iraq" insert "or" instead of "and".

Paragraph 10: Before "recruitment" in the first line add "official".

Line 2: Omit sentence beginning "The Foreign Office" and replace it with a sentence "Clandestine recruitment is not desirable."

Line 5: After "any number from" insert "some of" and after "these countries" insert "(e.g. Sweden and Switzerland)".

Line 7:

Fetence:
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Line 7: After "available" add "from them".

Then add following at end of paragraph:

"The same applies to such Latin American States as are not belligerent."

Paragraph 11 (a), line 2: Before "Tito" might it be as well to insert "Marshal"?

Paragraph 11 (c): Add "It is thought most unlikely that there are more than a handful of Jews there."

Paragraph 20, line 1: Before "recruitment" add "open".

Paragraph 21 (a), line 1: after "the Jews" add "in the Middle East (outside Palestine)".

Paragraph 21 (b), line 1: After "Jews" insert "In Middle East countries".

Paragraph 22. last line: After "would not" insert "wish to".

Paragraph 23: Alter opening sentence to read as follows: "The Foreign Office would have no objection to recruitment in Italy, provided the Italian Government agree, or in refugee camps there, provided the competent refugee authorities agree. But the need for this...."

Yours sincery (W) R. A. A. Hankery

Registry \E 7015/628/31. New Zionist Organisation - recruitment in Egypt for Jewish Brigade Group. Transmits copy of letter to Lord Killearn from FROM Mr. Shone, the delegate in Egypt of the New Zionist Cairo. Organisation protesting against an alleged statement of the Secretary of State for Colonies that Irgun 1284  $^{No.}(359/17/44)$ Zvai Leumi is a military formation of the New Dated 31st Oct., 1944. Mr. Staraselski, explains Zionist Organisation. Received in Registry } 15th Nov., origin of his organisation stressing fact that it has never resorted to illegal activities or adopted 1944. an anti-British attitude. Refers Cairo despatch E: Palestine No.1252 (E 6808/628/31). Copied to Resident Minister in Middle East and High Commissioner, Palestine. and Transjordan. Last Paper. E 6893 (G) References. (Print.) (How disposed of.) Nov. 25. (Action completed.) (Index.) mHm. 25/11. Next Paper. €7042. 27437 F.O.P.

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0700

WITHOUT PERMISSION 0 O America 0

PGDA/JK

British Embassy,

82.

No.1284 -(359/17/44)

E\_7015 15 NOV 1944

31st October, 1944.

Cairo.

I have the hopour to transmit herewith a copy of a letter addressed to Lord Killearn by the delegate in Egypt of the New Zionist Organisation in which he protests, in the name of his branch of the organisation, against an alleged statement of the Secretary of State for the Colonies that Irgun Zvai Leumi is a military formation of the New Zionist Organisation.

Mr. Staraselski explains in his letter that his organisation was established by the late Vladimir Jabotinsky in 1935 with a political programme and statutes founded upon the "rights" of the Jewish people as established in the Balfour Declaration and the Mandate of the League of Hations. He denies that this organisation, unlike Irgun Zvai Leumi, has ever adopted an anti-British attitude or resorted to illegal activities.

Mr. Staraselski's organisation is the one which formed the subject of my despatch No. 1252 of October 26th.

I am sending copies of this despatch with enclosure to the Minister Resident in the Middle East and to the High Commissioner, Palestine.

> I have the honour to be, With the highest respect, Sir, Your most obedient, humble Servant,

The Right Honourable Anthony Eden, M.C.M.P., etc., etc., etc.

Sir,

COPY /JK

THE NEW ZIONIST ORGANISATION

EGYPT BRANCH

4, Midan Mustafa Kamel Pasha.

Cairo, le 16 octobre, 1944.

A Son Excellence Lord Killearn of Killearn, Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté Britannique.

Excellence,

Il est de mon devoir de vous prier de vouloir bien transmettre au Gouvernement de da Majesté Britannique notre protestation contre l'affirmation faite à la tribune de la Chambre des Communes, par M. Cliver Stanley, Ministre des Colonies, selon qui "l'Irgoun Zvai Léoumi" est une "formation militaire de l'Organisation Sioniste Nouvelle".

Nous ne doutons pas que la bonne foi de Son Excellence le Ministre des Colonies a été surprise par des renseignements inexacts, ce qui seul geut avoir amené une telle confusion entre

- 1) l'Organisation/Sioniste Mouvelle, institution mondiale avec des sections dans tous les pays civilisés, et dont j'ai l'honneur d'être le représentant politique en Egypte, laquelle a été constituée au Congrès de Vienne de 1935 avec un programme politique et des statuts qui se fondent sur les droits du peuple juif tels qu'ils ont été juridiquement ratifiés dans la Déclaration Balfour et le Mandat de la Société des Nations;
- 2) l'Irgoun Zvai Léoumi dont les activités sont manifestement celles d'un groupe illégal, pour lequel aucun parti politique ne saurait être tenu responsable.

Au surplus, le commentaire subséquent de M. Cliver Stanley suffit à faire éclater l'impropriété du rapprochement. Je ne sais si l'Irgoun Zvai Léoumi, par ses agissements - que nous avons réprouvés sans la moindre équivoque - suit à la lutte de la Grande Bretagne contre Hitler; mais ce n'est certainement pas un reproche que l'Organisation Sioniste Nouvelle pourrait encourir. qu'il me soit permis de rappeler à ce propos nos nombreux camarades engagés volon aires dans les unités palestiniennes et britanniques, notre campagne pour la création d'une Armée juive, notre contribution aux démarches qui ont amené la formation de la Brigade juive, sans compter les dizaines de milliers de nos adhérents dans les armées alliés qui ont fait tout leur devoir contre l'ennemi commun.

Puis-je évoquer aussi, sur le plan politique, l'attitude prise par nos leaders responsables, à l'exemple de feu Vladimir Jabotinsky, fondateur de l'Organisation Sioniste Houvelle, qui ont toujours préconcisé une association étroite avec la Grande Bretagne et qui, malgré les critiques que nous avons pu avoir à formuler à l'égard de la Puissance mandataire, ont énergiquement préconcisé la transformation de la Palestine en un Dominion juif au sein du Commonwealth britannique?

D'ailleurs, une précédente déclaration de Son Excellence le Ministre des Colonies, dans le même sens, avait provoqué une mise au point du Dr. Altman, Directeur de notre Bureau politique à Jerusalem, et de Mr. Abrahams, Directeur de notre Bureau politique à Londres. En effet, nous estimons dangereux autant qu'injuste d'imputer à l'Organisation Sioniste Nouvelle les actes de l'Irgoun Svai Lécumi ou de n'importe quel autre groupe illégal. Nous croyons avoir le droit de demander qu'une distinction fondamentale soit faite en reconnaissance de la nature spécifique de notre mouvement.

Veuillez agréer, Excellence, avec mes remerciement respectueux, l'assurance de ma très haute considération.

> le délégué politique (SGD) ALBERT STARASELSKI.

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07 Salara Sa 9

PA 7042 PALTOTINE & Flag for Jewish Brigade Registry 3 7042/628/31 Copy of War Office telegram No. 92849 of 11th November to Allied Force Headquarters FROM War Office communicated advising that Flag for Jewish Brigade Group has been approved by War Cabinet and giving details description of flag and instructions as No.to where it should be flown. DatedReceived 16th Nov. in Registry S E: Palestine and Transjordan + Last Paper. (Minutes.) References. See inthis DO OFF 19668 # DEMO 8 724 promises. (Print.) (How disposed of.) m ( (Index.) (Action completed.) m4m. 20/11. Next Paper. E7048 26513 F.O.P.

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31-04-1-05

46809/4517 500M 1/44 LSB Gp, 38, 3317/5021 350M 4/44 LSB Gp, 38, 13861/5247 350M 5/44 LSB Gp, 38,

# SECRET CIPHER TELEGRAM

entry 85

This message will not be distributed outside British Government Departments or Headquarters or re-transmitted, even in cipher, without being paraphrased. (Messages marked O.T.P. need not be paraphrased).

E 7042

s of s/G/16107

From: The War Office.

Le NOVIONA Desp

Desp. 0120 12 Nov. 44.

To: AFHQ
C in C Middle Fa

C in C Middle East

92849 cipher SD2a 11 Nov. SECRET

FIRST. Flag for Jewish Bde Gp approved by War Cabinet. Consists of Star of David on white background between two pale blue bars.

SECOND Flag is NOT to be flown in Egypt. Authority is given for.

Jewish Bde Gp to fly it as soon as land Italy.

THIRD Prime Minister informed Dr Weizmann of the decision who has told Jewish Agency Palestine.

C6 (Tels)

TOO 1430 A/11

Copies to: S of S DWI
CIGS DDMI(I)
VCIGS DDMI(I)
DCIGS MI 1,2,3
AG DSD
ACIGS(0)(W) DDSD(A)
DMO SD 2(10)
DDMO(A) DAG(A)

DDPS(A)
AG 1,4
D of 0
DD of O(C)
Foreign Office
(R.M.A. Hankey Haq)
Colonial Office
(W.W. Clarke Esq)
(Lt-Col Rolleston)

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Reference:
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Y5101

2 8 MAR 1945

### CIPHER TELEGRAM

This message will not be distributed outside British Government Departments or Headquarters or re-transmitted, even in cipher, without being paraphrased. (Messages marked O.T.P. need not be paraphoas 45.

War Office From:

To

79668

: A.F.H.Q.

SD2

IMMEDIATE

rptd C in C Middle East

cipher

SECRET

INDEXED

Our cipher 92849 (SD2(A)) of 11 Nov.

Complaint has been received that Jewish FIRST

25 Mar.

Bde has not yet received the Bde flag authorised in our above cable and S of S has asked for statement on the question.

SECOND

Grateful early infm on the present position.

C.6. (Tels).

DDSD(A) Copies to: S of S SD 2(10) CIGS DAG(A) VCIGS DPS DCIGS DDPS(A) ΛG ACIGS(0)(W) D of O DMO DD of O(C) DDMO(V) Foreign Office MO 1 4 5 (R.M.A. Hankey Esq) DMI Colonial Office DDMI(I) (W.W.Clarke Esq) (Major Anderson)

MI 1 2 3 DSD

## CIPHER TELEGRAM

307164

This message will not be distributed outside British Government Departments or Headquarters or re-transmitted, even in cipher, without being paraphrased. (Messages marked O.T.P. need not be paraphrased.)

E-7042 628 31

Recd. 012300 Apr 45.

From: AFHQ.

D.T.O. 011916A.

To:

War Office.

Info: C. in C. Middle East.

IMPORTANT

FX53572 cipher 1 Apr. SECRET.

Cite FHQAE signed Alexander.

Your 79668 (SD2) of 25 Mar.

Jewish flag has been manufactured in Mideast and has only recently been completed. 6 flags being brought by rep Jewish agency from Mideast to CMF and will be in hands of Bde within few days. Understand delay occurred in agreement of actual design etc of flag.

C.6.Tels.

Do :- S.D. 2a. (for action).

Copies to :-D.S.D. D.D.S.D. (A). D.P.S. D.D.P.S. (A). A.C.I.G.S.(0), (W). D.M.O. D.D.M.O.(A). M.O.1, 4, 5. D.M.I. D.D.M.I.(I). M.I.1, 2, 3.

D.D. 1.3. (1.4.
D. of O.
D.D. of O.(C).
Foreign Office (R.M.A. Hankey, Esq.).
Colonial Office (W.W.Clarke, Esq.)
(Lt.Col.J.D.Chalmer

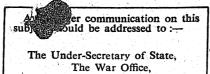
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140146

07-07-0

Tel. No.-Whitehall 9400.



London, S.W.1,

and the following number quoted. 0143/4749(SD2)



THE WAR OFFICE LONDON, S.W.1.

15 November, 1944.

SECRET

E 7078

Sir,

With reference to your E 6808/628/31 of 9 November, which asked for comments on Cairo despatches Nos 1252 and 1234 of the 26th and 22nd October, I am commanded by the Army Council to say that they agree with the view expressed by the Commander in Chief, Middle East in his letter C in C/ 546 of 23rd October, and suggest that the reply to M. Staraselski should be on the lines of the last paragraph of the Commander in Chief, Middle East's letter.

At present recruiting for the Jewish Brigade Group is restricted to the United Kingdom, Palestine and Mauritius. It is not intended at present to extend this and both in this country and in Palestine the only organisation which has been used to assist in recruiting is the Jewish Agency.

Similar requests made by the New Zionist Organisation here to be allowed to set up recruiting offices in this country have been refused.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

The Under Secretary of State, Foreign Office, Whitehall, S.W.1.

E 7078/628/31 Draft. Tellyman M. .. Carno Daminon) No. Savina 169 ~ War 35" And the 97107 图图 5 cely wo (SDE) NO

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STARASELSKI

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OUTFILE

E.7078/628/31
[EN CLAIR]

DEPARTMENTAL NO.1

## FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO CAIRO

No. 169 Saving.

25th November 1944.

9999

Your despatch No. 1252 [of 26th October: recruitment for Jewish Brigade in Egypt].

Recruiting for the Jewish Brigade is at present limited to the United Kingdom, Palestine and Mauritius.

- 2. The only Jewish organisation having official status in the matter is the Jewish gency.
  - 3. You should reply to Mr. Staraselski accordingly.

1

67 92 PALESTINE & TRANSJORDAM Committee for a Jewish Army. Further plans.

Encloses report of Committee for a Jewish Army's future activities. Envisages a greatly increased field of activity including South African Brigade, brigade of non-British nationals, women's auxiliary service, Registry \ E 7162/628/31. FROM <u>Postal and</u> <u>Telegraph Censorship</u>. No. LON/SE/8499/44. etc. Dated Received } 22nd Nov. in Registry } 1944. E:Palestine and Transjordan. Last Paper. (Minutes.) Call 26/21 E7078 References. (Print.) (How disposed of.) (Action completed.) (Index.) MHM. 25/11 Next Paper. E7172

25986 F.O.P.

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Peference:-

(33058D) Wt 19077/H660 200 6/44 H J R & L Gp 51 (34187D) Wt 26780/H679 200 8/44

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017 PERMISSION		Type of Mail TERMINAL. Air.  Reg. No.  FROM:  COMMITTEE for	Taken off S.S. at (port)  P A JEWISH AR  DISH STREET	To:	Date: on (date) PETER BERO	CHUSETTS AV.
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# COMMITTEE FOR A JEWISH ARMY - FURTHER PLANS

13

The report in the C.J.A's future activities, which the writer encloses, for from regarding their work as now ended, envisages a greatly increased field of activity. This includes formation of a South African Brigade, a brigade of Non-British nationals, womens Auxiliary service etc.

A copy in estached

- SUBMISSION NO: LON/SE/8499/44

### FURTHER WORK OF THE COMMITTEE FOR A JEWISH ARMY .

Many of our friends have asked us whether we consider the work of the Jewish Army Committee accomplished now that the Jewish Brigade Group has been created, and if so whether we propose to close our office. They point out that as we never intended to deal with the technical aspect of the question, they do not quite see what our work will be now.

I want to enswer this question. The Committee for a Jewish Army has never been as active as now. We have always said that our achievement in bringing about the creation first of the Jewish Battalions and now of the Jewish Brigade Group is only a small part of our larger issue, i.e. the participation of Jews as Jews in this war, and the recognition of Jews as a fighting ally. We are continuing our negotiations with the Government and with our supporters in the House of Commons and the House of Lords in order to achieve the next step in our programme.

We hope that this time the Government will not oppose and that we shall not be obstructed as previously by those Jews and non-Jews who have made difficulties in regard to this natural Jewish demand. I am therefore setting out here briefly in what the present work of the Jewish Army Committee consists.

The War Office decision to create the Jewish Brigade Group has roused enthusiasm among the great majority of Jews all over the world. But the term Brigade Group was generally misinterpreted to mean a number of independent Brigades with supporting auxiliary services. But a sense of disappointment followed when they found that a Brigade Group meant 7,000 men recruited mainly from Palestine and from Jews already serving in the Jewish Battalions and the Buffs.

Now that the principle of separate Jewish Units has been accepted by H.M. Government, we venture to suggest that in order to make full use of the further Jewish man-power available, the Jewish Brigades should not be limited to a single Brigade Group, drawing only from Great Britain and Palestine. If the War Office could announce that applications would be considered from Jewish volumteers between 19 - 40, provided their Governments give them permission. If the British Authorities cannot raise such questions with the Allied Governments, this Committee would be willing to approach them, if there were a general statement of principle made, in order to obtain permission for certain categories of refugees not yet serving in the Forces, for refugees who are serving and for Jewish partisans, provided they are not immediately required for the battlefield.

We envisage the following possible new Jewish formations, taking into consideration the points made by Lord Croft during the debate in the House of Lords, and by Sir Jomes Grigg to the deputation of Parliamentary supporters of the Jewish Army Committee.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

9

Reference:

-3 - SUBMISSION NO: LON/SE/8499/44

#### BRICADE CROUP NO. 1 3

Composed of Palestinian Jewish officers and men now serving in the Jewish Battalions, the Palestinian Buffs, and of Palestinian Jews serving in other units of the British Army who can be spered from their present duties.

Gomposed of civilian volunteers from Palestine, (taking account of the point made by Lord Croft that the number of such volunteers must be limited so as not to interefere with the industrial life of Palestine) from Egypt, Iraq, Iran, Turkey, Yemen and Aden. There are also considerable numbers of Jewish Refugees in France serving in the F.F.I. who are eager to join the Jewish Brigades. We learn that some of these have already made representations to Mr.Duff Gooper on behalf of their comrades asking to be allowed to join the Jewish Brigades. There are others in Morocco, Italy, Yugoslavie, Greece, Spain, Portugal and other liberated countries, many of them stateless refugees.

BRIGADE GROUP NO.5.

Composed of South African Jews who, we understand, are eager to join the Jewish Brigades and we believe that the South African Government would regard such a step with favour in regard to South African Jews who are not already in the Forces. There are also South American Jews who would wish to volunteer. We recently received a cable from the Argentine offering 5,000 young Jews there as rolunteers for the Jewish Brigades. There are too a large number of Jews who would volunteer from the neighbouring South American countries, as well as refugees who are now in the United States and in Canada.

ERICADE GROUP NO.4.

Composed of Refugees now serving in the Allied Forces, mainly in the British Dominions and American Forces, Lany of these would be eager to join the Jewish Brigades, if they are not indispensable where they are. Applications for releases would have to be made to their immediate Commanders.

#### WOMEN'S FORMATION

There are in Falostine 2,000 Jewish girls serving in the Palestinian Jewish A.T.S. Together with women volunteers from the Mediterranean countries and additional volunteers from Palestine, they could form a much larger unit of J.A.T.S. There is no reason why Jewish women should be refused what their Jewish men have obtained.

The first and fourth Jewish Brigade Groups could, after extensive training, which would be additioned to their previous training, be available for the battle field within 2 - 3 months, while the second and third Jewish Brigade Groups would beed longer training. Even if the end of the hostilities should come before these groups have completed their training they would be available for the occupation of Germany and of other satellite countries. In this connection, the Jews from the liberated countries of Europe put into uniform of the occupation forces would ease the civil food situation in Europe, as well as their own homelessness.

95

-4 - SUBMISSION NO: "
LON/SE/8499/44

We could set up Jewish Recruiting Offices in these countries, with the permission of the respective Governments, and military occupation authorities, to concentrate those volunteers who will pass their test in these selected recruiting centres, from which they could be transferred to the training depots.

We suggest that in addition to training camps existing for the first Brigade Group in the Mediterransan zone, snother depot should be set up in South Africa, for volunteers from the Western Hemisphere. The restriction on volunteers, drawing them alone from Great Britain and Palestine, leaves untouched a very large number of Jews who are not yet fighting, and who are eager to take their part in this battle against Nazidom. It is of the utmost importance to World Jewry that a special Jewish fighting formation should not be limited to 7,000 men, and that other Jews who are not resident in the United Kingdom should also have the opportunity to fight.

Captain J. Helpern, October 27th 1944.

68. E 7172/628/31. Recruitment for Jewish Brigade Gup. Transmits copy of War Office telegram No.94482 Registry of 17th November to General Headquarters Middle East Forces. Enlistment for Jewish Brigade Group restricted to United Kingdom and Mauritius. Recruits FROM War Office communicated). No. 2005. from Palestine will be enlisted in Palestine Regiments or Palestine section of appropriate corps. Gives further details of conditions of recruitment. Dated 22nd Nov. 1944. Received in Registry E:Palestine and Transjordan. Last Paper. (Minutes.) E 7/62 References. France C. In C. ME TO W.O. A1/64261 825/87 £6705 I Character amount a second and and and the comment of the comment specialists here the property of a forthered and a second of the second the U. B. Co. The way before party for the way to the way from the way to the (Print.)of lateratures for formation on land offered and the formation of the form Land har harmony of the Comment of t (How disposed of.) guaranteen when there can be a bire. C. happy was a grant of the grant of Yes. Let's have it to the Army though. They are quite sound on this. BriAH. 9 See within - C M.EEL AV/64261 8) 2576 NOOD). ( WO CO H.E. 51589 6] 13. 1 ] es) (Index.) (Action completed.) W.O. Commid (52824 of 18th Dec to Cin C. M.F. 18th Dec Next Paper. \$12.9. 25986 F.O.P.

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46800/4517 500M 1/44 LSB Gp, 38, 3317/5021 350M 4/44 LSB Gp, 38, 13861/5247 350M 5/44 LSB Gp, 38.

# SECRET CIPHER TELEGRAM

This message will not be distributed outside British Government Departments or Headquarters or re-transmitted, even in cipher, without being paraphrasell (Messages marked O.T.P. need not be paraphrased).

From : War Office

19/Gen/539

Desp. 2005 17 Nov. 44

: GHQ MEF Rptd: GHQ East Africa OC Tps Mauritius AFHQ (For FHGAB)

IMPORTANT (.) 94482 (AG1A) cipher 17 Nov (.) CONFIDENTIAL (.)

Your A1/55027 cipher 27 Oct (.)

- First (.) Your Two (.) Enlistment GSC for JBG restricted UK and MAURITIUS(.) Recruits raised in Palestine will be enlisted Palestine Regt or Palestinian sec appropriate corps (.)
- Second(.) Your Three and Four (.) JAA Prefix applies all repeat all enlistments in direct response Jewish Agency appeal whether enlisted UK PALESTINE or MAURITIUS (.) Palestine enlistments will be given prefix quote JAA/PAL unquote (.)
- Third (.) Your Five (.) Agree documents recruits raised MAURITIUS be maintained at JERUS LEM not repeat not EGYPT (.)
- Fourth(.) Your Six (.) Matter under consideration (.) Unable confirm at this stage where recruits for JBG raised MAURITIUS will be sent on discharge or demobilization (.)
- Fifth (.) Your A1/53128 cipher 20 Oct not to EAST AFRICA and MAURITIUS (.) Para One (.) Your views noted will notify you decisions earliest (., Para Two (.) (A) At present intended limit recruiting for JBG to UK PALESTINE and MAURITIUS (.) (B) Question of Colonial and Family Ration Allowances still under consideration (.) Hastening decision (.) C.6. (Tels.) TOO 1240 M/17

Copies to :- D of O, DD of O(C)(O)(D). AG Co-ord. DMP DRD, DPS. DSD. DF(A)(B)(D). AG1A(eight). AG3(d). AG10. SD2. F 1,2,3,4,6, QMGF Colonial Office (Lt Col Rolleston. Mr AW Clarke)

Foreign Office (Mr RMA Hankey. Mr CW Baxter)

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Put with

# SECRET CIPHER TELEGRAM

This message will not be distributed outside British Government Departments or Headquarters or re-transmitted, even in cipher, without being paraphrased.

(Messages marked O.T.P. need not be paraphrased).

#### INDEXED

492640.

7172 628 31

H-dell

Recd. 0535 26 Nov 44.

From: - C. in C. Middle East.

To:- The War Office.

IMPORTANT.

41/64261 cipher 25 Nov CONFIDENTIAL.

Your signal 94482 (A.G.12) of 17 Nov.

One. Your para 2. Consider most undesirable that enlistments be accepted for service only with J B G for following reasons.

- A. Whilst every candidate will be considered for J B G. Eventual posting to that formation must be dependent on eligibility and absorption in suitable vacancy.
- B. Personnel subsequently becoming unfitted for J B G through medical or other reasons would be ineligible for posting to other suitable unit outside the J B G.
- C. Have stressed all along to Jewish agency in Palestine that enlishment is on a general service attestation but every consideration will be given for request for service with J B G. We have particularly endeavoured to avoid any question of vested right for service with J B G only, which would give grounds for future discontent and grievance if it is necessary to transfer in the interests of the service under Provision of Armed Forces (conditions of service) Act 1939 as amplified by A.C.I. 626 of 1939.

/TWO ...

71/40146

3

Peference:-

Two. Consequent on your agreement to above, request re-consideration parks three and four our signal A1/55027 of 27 Oct.

Three. Suffix ould be automatically dropped in case of personnel posted to a unit outside the J B G for reasons in 1 B above.

Four. Your para 5. Proposed Est of Jewish Brigade Rft and Trg (or Org) Contre in Egypt ill mean that in any case recraits would automatically come on to UK rates of pay a few days after enlistment.

T.U.O. 2000 B.

C.G.Telegrams.

To: - A.G. la (for action).

Copies to:-

D. of O. (C)(O)(D)
A.G.Co-ord
D.M.P.
D.R.D.
D.P.S.
D.S.D.
A.G.la(8) 3d 10
S.D.2
O.M.G.F.
Colonial Office (Lt. Col. Rolleston)(Mr. A.W.Clarke)
Foreign Office (Mr. R.M.A.Hankey)(Mr. C.W.Baxter)
D.F.B.
F.2.4.

C in C MEF

SECRET CIPHER **TELEGRAM** 

This message will not be distributed outside British Government Departments or Headquarters or re-transmitted, even in cipher, without being paraphrased. From : War Office (Messages marked Q.T.P. need not be partiple 1939 Desp. 2330 13 Dec. 44

51589 (AG1A) cipher IMPORTANT (.) CONFIDENTIAL (.) 13 Dec (.) Your A1/64261 cipher 25 Nov (.)

Your One (A) and (B)(.) First (.) Intention has always been that . recruits enlist for General Service not repeat not exclusively for service with JB Gp (.) Para Third (B) my 80067 (SD2a) 27 Sep and Para 4 War Office memo 19/Gen/539(AG1A) 24 Oct refer(.) Postings should therefore follow normal rules according vacancies in units medical category and other relevant factors but should be to units JB Gp whenever practicable (.) Your (C) fully understood and agreed no vested rights (.) This has been made clear in negotiations with Jewish Agency here (.)

Second (.) Your Two and Three (.) Object of JAA prefix is identification all enlistments in direct response JA appeal irrespective country of enlistment and eventual posting whether to unit of JB Gp or otherwise (.) This identification essential in order ensure compliance with undertaking referred to my Top Secret cipher 73167 (SD2a) 1 Sep para Third (A) particularly in cases where JAA enlistments subsequently posted units outside JB Gp (.)

Third (.) Your Four noted (.) Decided recruits raised Palestine eligible only fractional rates pay while they remain in Palestine thus conforming normal practice (.) Jewish acrey here informed (.)

C.6. (Tels.)

TOO 1610 1/13

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Copies to:- D of O
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             AG Co-ord
             DMP
             DRD
             DPS
             DSD
             DF(b)
             ngi(Á) (8) 3d, 10
F2, 4, 9
QMGF
             Colonial Office(Lt Col Rolleston)(Mr AW Clarke)
             Foreign Office (Mr RMA Hankey) (Mr CW Baxter)
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# SECRET CIPHER **TELEGRAM**

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INDEXLO

From ; War Office

19/Gen/539 Desp. 0055 19 Dec. 44

Rptd: AFHQ (for FHGAB)

IMPORTANT.

52824 gipher (AGLA), 18 Dec.

o in C Middle East

SECRET (.)

Your A1/65960 cipher 1 Dec (.)

- Only fractional rates admissible for JAA recruits while stationed in Palestine (.) See para Third my 51589 (AG1A) cipher 13 Dec (.)
- Recruiting at present restricted UK Palestine and Two (.) Mauritius as stated my 94482 (AG1A) 17 Nov (.) Foreign Office objections preclude recruiting Jews in Egypt Levant Iraq or Libya owing possible detrimental effect Arab states (.)
- Three (.) Seventh my 84992 cipher 14 Oct cancelled (.) Substitute quote Family ration allowance admissible within the terms of War Office cables 04465 clear ST6 2 Feb 43 and 05907 clear ST6 15 Mar 43 as amended by 85468 cipher ST6 1 Jun and 51943 cipher F4c 22 Jul provided you are clear you can confine issue to cases thus eligible(.) Recruits from Mauritius whose families reside there are maintained in camp at HMG expense and do not rpt not qualify FRA unquote (.)

C.6. (Tels.)

TOO 1720 A/18

Copies to :- D of O DD of O(C)(O)(D) DIP DDMP AG1(A) (8),3,13 Brig AG Co-ord DRD DSD DPS

DF(A)(B)(D) F 2,4,9 QMGF SD2

Colonial Office - Lt Col Rolleston Mr AW Clarke Foreign Office - Mr Ria Hankey hr CW Baxter

9

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0 

Temporary accommodation of Jewish Detainees in Eritrea.  $\frac{Registry}{Number}$ **E** $\left.\right\}$ 7219/628/31 C in C is anxious to transfer them from FROM Mr. Drew, War Eritrea, and East African Governor's conference agreed to construct accommodation in Kenya. Office to Mr. Baxter. No. C.A. 2(a)B.M./166 War Office cabled Middle East informing them of this offer, but a Middle East telegram saying Dated 22nd Nov.1944 C in c proposed to make accommodation available in Carthago. Received 25th Nov.1944 in Registry Encloses copy of letter to Colonial Office asking which camp they prefer. Asks if Foreign E:Palestine and Office object to Carthage site. Transjordan Last Paper. (Minutes.) I can am no physicism to the E2172 References. the series a Neda 4 (Print.) 0 he do not know whether the (How disposed of.) Judan Jur. are aware of This proposal Jed Cario 1702 6 Per. and see no objection, a wheten dond (of Jrew 6.0. Killeam Timber Tour the Krypian fort, 9 Who share the condonission into us, stended I Trusk we should ask Cairo, who can consult Khartum. Penhap we should only to W.O. saying her four ou opposition ent that (Index.) (Action completed.) Butir tilipaph Cairo Next Paper.

(E 7220)

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I wentimed this to the hozale of the Said he would speak to Mr. Likely about Cartago, as he had never heard of the place.

I think we might hire Cano a refer, to tros they can get copies of the Roce.

CR. 5/12

for a military comp, 1 Mfb/12.

74, hear Erroweit.

See within (w.o commid tel 978035) 29 Nov)

Cin C MEG til Q 4/68707 of 11th Pec 15 10-0.

W.O til R Cin C. M. E no 57095 of 4th Jan.

Cin C ME til. Q 5/90441 5724.2 Til

W.O tel & Cicc DIE 74776 & Sit Fran

ABBey 1272 Ext.

War Office, (C.A.2.(a)), Hotel Victoria, Northumberland Avenue, 102 London, W.C. 2.

12. November, 1944.

enter

Ref: C.A.2.(a)B.M./166.

See Banker

You will have seen copies of the telegrams passing to and fro on the subject of the Jewish detainees who were recently removed from Palestine and are now temporarily accommodated in Eritrea.

As you know the Commander-in-Chief was anxious to have them transferred from Eritrea as soon as possible and the East African Governor's conference agreed to construct accommodation for them in Kenya, but that this would take some six months.

Consequently we cabled Middle East (War Office telegram No. 95429 dated 20th November) informing them of this offer and suggesting that the retention of the detainees in Eritrea until

the Kenya accommodation was ready appeared inevitable.

Meanwhile a telegram from Middle East (GO/62461 dated) 20th November) has crossed ours. In it the Commander-in-Chief proposes to make accommodation available at Carthage, in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan.

I have written to the Colonial Office (copy attached) asking whether they would prefer to go forward with the preparation of a camp in Kenya, or to accept the latest suggestion made by Middle East.

I wonder if there is any objection from your point of view to the Carthage site.

C.W. Baxter, Esq., C.M.G., M.C., Foreign Office, London, S.W.1.

(Sgd.) F. G. Drew

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ABBey 1272 Date (C.A.2.(a)), Hotel Vistoria, Northumberland Avenue, London, W.C.2.

Ref: C.A.2.(a) B.M./166.

November, 1944.

With reference to previous correspondence (C.A. 1/ EM/166 dated 19th October) on the subject of Jewish detainses removed from Falestine and who are now temporarily lodged in Eritres, you will have seen War Office telegrem No. 95429 dated 20th November, in which we suggested that there was no alternative to the retention of the detainses in Eritres until accommodation for them could be prepared in Kenya.

SMIRKE.

We have since received GD/62461 dated 20th November from Middle East, where it is proposed to make accommodation available for them at Carthage, in the Angle-Egyptian Sudan.

As far as we are concerned, we see no objection to this last proposal, and I have written to the Foreign Office (copy attached) to ask them whether they see any.

We would be very grateful for your views whether the Kenya proposal should go forward or whether you would prefer to accept the Commander-in-Chief's latest suggestion.

L4. Gol. W.L. Rolleston, Golonial Office, London, S.W.1.

(Sgd.) F. G. Drew

Feference:
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E. 7219/628/31 Draft. Theren ha MARGIN Uhlm Dec. 6 My (Cor. Druew) W.O. RMAHS 

Commonder in Chief milde

Commonder in Chief milde

East proposes that 250 Jason

Fearings recently Deported from

Paletine to Entire a should be

From found to a permanent comp

in the Red Sea hills in the

Sudan I prosume sudan Grot have agreed.

Consider Egyptian Gout shill be informed?

Phone copy to Result is

M-1112

OUTWARD TELEGRAM.

E. 7219/628/31.

[CYPHER]

DEPARTMENTAL NO.1.

### FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO CAIRO.

No. 1712. 6th December, 1944.

D: 3.00 p.m. 7th December, 1944.

5 5 5

#### TOP SECRET.

Commander-in-Chief Middle East proposes in his telegram No. GO/62461 to War Office that 250 Jewish terrorists recently deported from Palestine to Eritrea should be transferred to a permanent camp in the Red Sea hills in the Sudan. I presume Sudan Government have agreed.

Do you see any objection? Do you consider Egyptian Government should be informed?

Please copy to Minister Resident's Office.

OTP.

RD OFFICE 1 2 3 4 5 6
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Feference:-

# MOST SECRET CIPHER TELEGRAM

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7219 628 31

The War Office From:-

CA2(a)/BM/166

C. in C. Middle East.

Desp 0710 30 Nov 44

97803 F.1.

Cipher

29 Nov.

TOP SECRET

Your GO/62461 cipher 20 Nov and previous cables re accn 251 Jewish internees now in Eritrea.

State whether such cash expenditure as is incurred is being First. charged Army Funds or O.T.A. Funds.

In either case records must be kept of Jewish internees on Second. man/ night basis for possible ultimate recovery Palestine Govt based on capitation rate.

Separate record should be kept of any capital expenditure incurred. Third. Cost of pay and allowances mil gds will not (rpt not) be Fourth. recovered.

C.6. Tels.

T.O.O.14.30A/29.

S. of S. Copies to:-P.U.S. C. I. G. S. V. C. I. G. S. D. C. I. G. S. A. C. I. G. S. (0). D. M. O. D.D.M.O.(A) (B) M.O.l.4. D.M.I. D. D. M. I. (I) (S) (O) M. I. 2.5.11.17. A. G. D. A. G. (A) A.G. 3(b) Co-ord Q. M. G. V. Q. M. G. Colonial Office (Col. Rolleston) Foreign Office (Mr. Baxter)

Brig Q(Ops) Q(Ops)(Co-ord)1,4. D. Q. D. D. Q. (B) 2.2. D.P. Mov. D. D. P. Mov (O'Seas) Q(M)2 D.F.(a) F.1. (10 copies) 5(4 copies) N. F. D. S. D. D. D. S. D. (A) S.D.2. D. C. A. D. D. C. A. (M. G.) Col. C.A. C. A52(a)

D.154/29.11.

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9 O Reference:

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# SECRET CIPHER TELEGRAM

Keep witt pp 107 497945. [M] 19/12

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(Messages marked O.T.P. need not be paraphrased).

#### INDEXER

From: C. in. C. Middle East.

7219 628 31

o: The War Office.

Q4/68707 cipher 11 Dec. SECRET.

Your 97803 (F.1) of 29 Nov.

First, Jewish internees, WD (repeat WD)

D.S.D.

D. C. A.

Col. C. A. C. A. C. A. 2a.

D.D.S.D.(A). S.D.Z.

D.D.C.A. (MG).

Second. Records will be maintained.

Third, Fourth, noted,

T.O.O.1130B.

Colonial Office (Col. Rolleston) Foreign Office (Mr. Baxter).

C.6. (Telegrams)

## Distribution by F.1.

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S. of S. P. U.S. (F) C. I. G.S. V. C. I. G.S. V. C. I. G.S. O) D. M. O. (A) (B) D. M. O. 1.4. D. M. I. (I) (S) (O) D. M. I. 2.5. 11.17. A. G. D. A. G. (A) A. G. 3b. Coord. Q. M. G. V. Q. M. G. Brig. Q(Ops) Coord. 1.4. D. D. D. Q. (B) Q. (Ops) Coord. 1.4. D. D. D. Q. (B) Q. 2. D. P. Mov. (O'Seas) Q(M) 2. D. F. (a) F. 1. (10). 5(4) W. F. V. F. (10). 5(4) V. F. (10). 5(4)

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# CIPHER TELEGRAM

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(Messages marked O.T.P. need not be paraphrased).

INDEXED

7219 62831

CA2(a)/BI/166

From: - The War Office

Desp. 051505 Jan 45

To:- C, in C Middle East

DEFERRED

57095 F.1. Cipher

4 Jan.

SECRET

Your 04/68707 cipher 11 Dec.

First. Palestine Government agrees to rec expenditure maint Jewish

deportees Eritrea on capitation basis. Rec will be effected locally by you.

Second. Assess daily capitation rate on basis of full cost excl pay and allowances mil gds but incl accn clement, A.C.I.433/43 refers.

Third. Report rate recommended giving make up under broad headings.

C. 6. Tels.

T.O.O. 1730 A/4.

Foreign Office (Nr. Baxter)
Brig. Q(Ops)
Q. (Ops) Coord. 1. 4.

Copies to: - S. of S. D. Q. D.D.Q.(B) P.U.S. P.U.S. (F). Q. 2. C. I. G. S. D.P. Mov. D.D.P. Mov (Oversuas) V.C.I.G.S. D.C.I.G.S. Q(M)2A.C.I.G.S.(0) D.F.(a) F.1. (8 copies) 5(4) D. M. O. D.D.M.O.(A)(B) W.F. M.O.1, 4. D.S.D. D.M.I. D.D.S.D. (A) D.D.M.I. S.D.2. D.D.M.I.(I)(S)(0)D.C.A. M.I.2, 5, 11, 17. D.D.C.A. (M.G.) A. G. (Λ) .Col. C.A. C.A.2(a) A.G. 3(b) Co-ord Colonial Office (Col. Rolleston)

D/4/4.1.

Q.M.G. V.Q.M.G.

WITHOUT PERMISSION

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INDEXED

Reod. 252120 Feb 45.

D.T.O. 241140 B. From: - O. in O. Middle East,

To:- War Office Maj Gen Comd Tps Sudan.

SECRET Q.5/90441 cipher 24 Feb. Ref your 57095/of 4 Jan.

Daily capitation rate main Jewish internees assessed four shillings and sixpence per diem made up of rations one milling and six pence accn tenpence clothing medical and miscellaneous two shillings and twopence. In addition cost of Mil Gds is per diem rations one One Brit Inf Coy shilling and sixpence accn tempence. employed as Gd.

This answers your S/23521/Q of 3 Feb. KAID only.

C.6. Tolograms. Distribution by F.I. Copies to:

> P.U.S. (F).
> C.I.G.S.
> V.C.I.G.S.
> D.C.I.G.S.
> A.C.I.G.S. (0). D.M.O. D.D.M.O.(A)(B). M.O.1. 4s D.M.I. D.D.M.I. D.D.M.I.(I)(S)(O). M.I.2,5,11,17. D. A. G. (A). A.G.3(b) Co-ord. Q.M.G. V.Q.M.G.
> Brig. Q(Ops).
> Q(Ops)Co-ord, 1,
> D.D.Q.(B).
> Q.2.

P. Mov. D.D.P. Mov. (Overseas): Q(M)2. D.F.(a). F.1 (8), 5 (4). W.F. D.S.D. D.D.S.D.(A). S.D. 2. D.C.A. D.D.C.A. (M.G.). Col. C.A.
C.A.2(a).
Colonial Office (Col.W.L.
Rolleston). Foreign Office (Mr. Baxter).

7-140-46

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# CIPHER TELEGRAM

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7219 628 31

INDEXED

C.A.2.(a) B.M. 166. Desp. 091245 Mar. 45. D.T.O. 81400A

From: The War Office

To:- C.-in-C., Middle East. (Reptd. M.G.C.T., Sudan.)

SECRET

DEFERRED.

74776 cipher F.1. (8 Mar

Your Q. 5/90441 of 241140BFob. proposed capitation rates for (a)

internees (b) guards approved. Effect recovery locally in accordance with First our 57095 (F. 1.) cipher 4 Jan.

C.6. (Tels). 7219/658/3/

Copies to: So of So P.U.S. P.U.S. (F) C. I. G. S. V.C.I.G.S. D. C. I. G.S. A. C. I. G. S. (0) D.M.O. D.D.M.O. (A)(B) M.O. 1, 4 D.M. I. D.D. I.I. I. D.D.M.I.(I)(S)(O) M.I.2, 5, 11, 17 A. G. D. A. G. (A) - A. G. 3 (b) Co-ord Q. M. G. V. Q. M. G. Brig Q(Ops)

Q(Ops)Co-ord 1, 4 D.Q. D.D.Q. (B) Q. 2. D.P. Mov. D.D.P. Mov (O'seas) ର(M)2 D.F. (a) F. 1. (8), 5(4) W.F. D.S.D. D. D. S. D. (A) S.D.2. D. C. A. D.D.C.A. (M.G.) Col. C.A. C.A.2(a) Colonial Office (Lt. Col. W.L. Rolloston) Foreign Office (Mr. Baxter)

D/4/8.3.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

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WI THOUT PERMIS

eference:-

70 Temporary Accommodation of Jewish detainees in Eritrea. Registry 7220/628/31 Refers letter from War Office (Colonel Drew)
No. CA2(A)BM 166 of 22nd November, 1944.
Welcomes suggestion of Commander-in-Chief to
make accommodation available in the Sudan for Jewish FROM Mr. Rolleston. Colonial Office No. 75156/151F/44 detainees. Copied to Mr. Baxter, Foreign Office. Dated Received | 25th Nov., in Registry | 1944. E: Palestine and Transjordan (Minutes.) Last Paper. References. (Print.)(How disposed of.) (Action completed.) (Index.) Next Paper. E7221 25986 F.O.P.

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Colonial Office Reference	No. 75156/1518/44
which the compliments of	naming Street.
75156/151F/44	Ge onew) ho CA2(A)/BM 166  3. W. 1.  26 November, 1944.
SEORET	골레일 (1985년) 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12

Thank you for your letter of the 22nd November (C.A.2.(a) B.M./166) about the Jewish detainess from Palestine who are now temporarily accommodated in Eritrea.

We welcome the C.-in-C.'s helpful suggestion to make accommodation available for them in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan and we hope that there will be no political objections to this arrangement. From our point of view not only would the establishment of a camp in East Africa present difficulties but, if there are any further detainess to be removed from Palestine, it would be far easier to move them to the Sudan.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Baxter at the Foreign Office. I hope he will be able to assure us very soon that there are no political objections to their going to the Sudan.

Jans ever (Sga). Vidhouston

COLONEL F.G. DREW, O.B.E.

TANGLER ! Enlistment for Jewish Brigade Group. Registry NumberE 7226/628/31 Requests instructions on how to deal FROM Consulate-General with applicants, not liable to local military Tunis. Service, for information about enlistment in No 374 (3491/475/18) Jewish Brigade Group. Dated 6th Nov.1944 Received 125th Nov.1944 in Registry E:Palestine and Transjordan Last Paper. (Minutes.) E7220. References. enguines The WO agree wir would be a good (Print.) Heing a relate that contents of conceller as planty for (0) how on a constitution of any of becoment. (How disposed of.) compand to U.K., Palestin & manuficion Circula Li AM AR and (h) I had only the Threeh afternan han ontography 2014 Cercula a chip Consed though conceder altacked. (cartan) Haygny Dec 14 RMAHanky Nov. 29 (Index.) (Action completed.) See Within ) histon Tel No. 72. of Dec. 21st. muse - he amount of . Next Paper.

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BJ/OF · Bri tish nº374 Consulate-General (3491/475/18) 6th.November 1944 E 7221 Sir, I have the honour to request instructions as to how I am to deal with applicants, not liable to local military service, who apply to me for information about enlistment in the Jewish Brigade which His Majesty's Government is reported to be forming. I have the honour to be, With the highest respect, Sir, Your most obedient, humble Servant.

The Right Honourable Anthony EDEN, M.P., M.C.,

Foeign Office, London

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(046/1944) (42/1944)

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[ E 7221/628/31 ]

CIRCULAR.

Foreign Office,

14th December, 1944.

#### Recruitment for Jewish Brigade Group.

Sir,

As several enquiries have been received from posts abroad on this subject it is desirable that His Majesty's Representatives should know that recruitment for the newly formed Jewish Brigade Group is at present confined to the United Kingdom, Palestine and Mauritius. Applicants should be so informed.

- 2. The only Jewish organisation having any official standing in this matter is the Jewish Agency.
- 3. A circular despatch in similar terms has been addressed to His Majesty's Superintending Consular Officers.

I am, with great truth and regard,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

ANTHONY EDEN.

His Majesty's Representative at

(046/1944)

12592 28741—1

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371/40146

Registry No. E 7221/628/3/

Distribution of Circular to His Majesty's Diplomatic Missions in Middle Cast (by Foreign Office bag except where otherwise stated).

No. 046/1944, dated. 14. December 1944

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Guatemala	sentatives to—
Managua	CZECHO- SLOVAKIA
San Salvador	-GREECE
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San José	only—1 copy

\* With extra copy for India Office.

Embassies in capitals.

Circular despatched by Gunkield Pyoley

Date 18th Dec. 1944

List checked by Sectors

Date 18/14/44

9022 28103

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[ E 7221/628/31 ]

CIRCULAR.

Foreign Office, 14th December, 1944.

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2. The only Jewish organisation having any official standing in this matter is the Jewish Agency.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

ANTHONY EDEN.

His Majesty's Superintending Consular Officers.

(42/1944)

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April 1944.

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[Italics indicate Consuls-General.]

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§§ Foreign Office circulars only.

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(Superintending Consular Officers. All Consular Officers. Salaried Consular Officers. Consular Officers concerned with British passports. Circular issued to Passport Control Officers. Consular Officers concerned with visa questions. Consular Officers concerned with Iraqi visa questions Copies sent to Copies Sent Control Officers.

Passport Copies (4).

Passport Copies (4).

Passport Copies (4). Circular despatched by Sunkides - Pyaley Date 18 Den 1944

List checked by Date 18/1744 Notes. (a) British Passports. Circulars on this subject should be distributed to Salaried Officers,\* to Passport Control Officers and also to the undermentioned posts: Consuls (unsalaried)— Iquitos, Peru (via Amazon River). St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, West Indies. Noumea, New Caledonia. St. Vincent, Cape Verd Islands. Praia, Cape Verd Islands. Puerto Rico (address San Juan, Puerto Rico, West Indies). Additional copies as specified should go to the following posts: Antofogasta (1). Lisbon (1). Port Said (1) Barcelona (2). Loanda (1). Tenerife (1). Bilbao (3). Los Angeles (2). San José (1). Bogotá (3). Porto Alegre (1). Zürich (1). Copies should also be sent to the undermentioned: Passport Office (General Department) (4). Dominions Office (60). Passport Control Department (6) India Office (50). Colonial Office (60). Burma Office (4). (b) Visa Questions. One copy of such circulars should go to the following posts: His Majesty's Ambassador: Cairo (bag). Consuls: Las Palmas, Canary Islands. Santiago (bag). Chief Immigration Officer, Jerusalem (c/o Colonial Office) (1 copy Passport Control, Department Circulars relating to undesirable alien, "Home Office Warnings" and Suspect Index only). Copies should also be sent to the undermentioned: Colonial Office (60). †‡ Dominions Office (60). Passport Office (4). Passport Control Department (when the circular is issued by that Depart-India Office (50) ment) (50). Burma Office (4). Passport Control Department (when the circular is issued by the Foreign Office) (6).

\* Except Nova Goa.

† When the distribution is limited geographically this number should be correspondingly decreased subject to a minimum of 25. † Passport Control Department circulars relating to undesirable aliens should not be sent to Colonial

Office except in special cases.

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(c) Circular Warnings.

These warnings (issued by the Home Office) regarding undesirable individuals are to be distributed as indicated in column 3 (visa questions). Copies should also be sent to the posts abroad enumerated at (b) above.

(d) Civil Procedure Conventions.

Copies of circulars on this subject should be sent to the undermentioned:—

Colonial Office (200).

Dominions Office (50).

Home Office (2).

Scottish Office (3).

(e) Copies of circulars, whether general or limited, addressed to Consuls should be sent for information to His Majesty's Representatives at the capitals of the States in which the consular posts are situated. This does not apply to circulars issued by the Passport Control Department (with the sole exception of those authorising the abolition of visas) and the Passport Office.

(f) Number of copies required for distribution to—	
Superintending Consuls	$250\mathrm{copies}$
All Consular Officers	550 ,,
Salaried Consular Officers	300 ,,
Consular Officers concerned with British passports (including copies for	
Passport Control Officers and London Government Departments)	600 ,,
Passport Control Officers and Consular Officers concerned with visa	
questions (including copies for London Government Departments)	' /
(when issued by Foreign Office)	550 ,,
(The above figures provide for distribution to His Majesty's	
Representatives in each case.)	A Maria
Passport Control Officers and Consular Officers concerned with visa	
questions (including copies for London Government Departments)	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
(when issued by Passport Control Department)	450 ,,

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[CODE R]

## FROM LISBON TO FOREIGN OFFICE INDEXED

His Majesty's Consul-General, D. 7.55 p.m. 23rd December No. 72

21st December 1944

R. 1.55 a.m. 24th December 1944

Your despatch circular No. 42.

I should be grateful if I might be supplied with 30 additional forms and cards.

Reference:
FO ST / 40 - 4.6

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35 NOV 1944

TOP SECRET

Copy No ....

D.M.O. D.M.I. D. of 0. D.R.D.

SD2/6218

Attached is a copy of my minute to the S of S on the extension of recruiting for the Jewish Brigade Group and of the note which I have had prepared on this question, which you have already seen in draft.

15 Nov 44

Ally, Buil All

Copies to :- Foreign Office (R.M.A. Hankey Esq)

Colonial Office (W.W. Clark Esq) (Lt-Col W.L. Rolleston O.B.J.)

Dominions Office (G.W. Tory Esq)

MO 1,4,5 MI 2, AG 1,10

## MINUTE 2 of BM - SD2/6218/A-

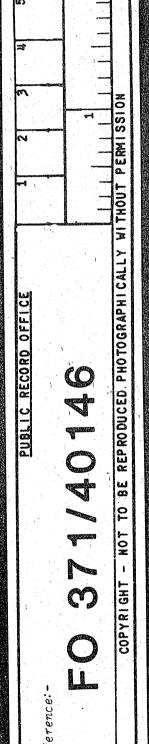
## S of S (through DCIGS)

- You asked me to prepare a comprehensive note setting out the arguments for and against an extension of the field of recruiting for the Jewish Brigade Group which is at present confined to the United Kingdom, Palestine and Mauritius!
- At 1A is a note which I have prepared as a result of a meeting at which the Foreign Office, Dominions Office and Colonial Office were all represented, and which has been agreed by them. As a result of the conclusions in Part III of the note I recommend:
  - (a) that no extension of recruiting should be allowed at present until we see how many recruits are produced in Palestine, the United Kingdom and Mauritius.
  - (b) that if it is subsequently decided to extend recruiting the only extension should be to the Dominions and to Allied and co-belligerent countries. This should only be done with the consent of the Governments concerned and the Foreign Office are prepared to make the necessary approach if HM Representatives to those Governments agree.
- We shall continue to be pressed to widen the field of recruitment. You have already dealt with Lord Strabolgi's letters but the Jewish Agency are seeking a further interview to ask again for recruiting in Italy. France and Belgium. If you agree I shall continue to insist on the resent limitation of recruiting.

(Sgd) J.S. Steele

D S D

13 Nov 44.



## MARIN TION OF PROPOSILS TO EXTEND THE FIELD OF

#### RECRUITING FOR THE JEWISH BRIGHDE GROUP

- 1. Lord Strabolgi when he urged the formation of a Jewish Army in the House of Lords in July put forward grandiose proposals for the recruitment of Jews from all over the world. The Jewish Agency's proposals are more modest, but they, too, have suggested recruiting in many countries. At present, however, in spite of the efforts of the various Jewish bodies to extend it, recruiting for the Jewish Brigade Group has been confined to the United Kingdom, Palestine and Mauritius.
- 2. The S of S dealt with Lord Strabolgi's proposals when he received his deputation on 11 July

  then that the formation of anything larger than a brigade group was impracticable and he emphasised the difficulties.
  - (a) of training so many men at a time when every man is wanted in the line
  - (b) of the time required to get a large formation ready
  - (c) of extracting Jews from other countries
  - (d) of transportation.

Lord Strabolgi is now returning to the charge on the question of recruitment for the Brigade Group and is again seeking an interview with him. The following is an examination of the proposal to extend recruiting to other countries. It is divided into three parts:-

Part I Consideration of the various countries

Part II General Considerations

Part III Conclusions.

#### PART I - CONSID RATION OF THIV RIOUS COUNTRIN

#### A.ALLIED COUNTRIES

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- 4. The Foreign Office would have no objection to recruiting in the United States and other Allied countries, if it were carried out with the permission of the government concerned. No approach would be made to the Governments concerned without previous consultation with His Majesty's Representative to the Governments who might know of local objections to recruiting.
- claim to the services of all Jews whether nationals or refugees who are residing in their country. Hanpower is so short in all Allied countries that they must be expected to require to retain all their resources and if an Allied Government is not prepared to accede to a request to permit Jews to volunteer for the Brigade Group, the Foreign Office will not be prepared to press for it. Special problems arise as regards recruitment on Allied Territory which is a military zone. Examples of this are Belgium, Holland, Tuxembourg and parts of France. It would be essential to make sure that the C-in-C (in the examples given General Eisenhower) saw no objection before any arrangements were made for recruitment in such territories.

eference:
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Similar considerations ould apply to liberated parts of Poland and Czecho-slovakia where Soviet military opnourrence would be essential.

#### B.CO-BELLIGERUNTS.

6. Italy. It is considered that there should be no recruitment in an area of operations but part of Italy has been handed over to the Italian Government and the Jewish Agency estimate that there are over 600 refugees in the South of Italy and about 1,000 Italian nationals who would be willing to volunteer for the Brigade Group. The Foreign Office would have no objection to recruitment of Italian Jews or other Jews freely resident in Italy, provided the permission of the Italian Government were obtained. Naturally, General Wilson and Sir N Charles would have to be consulted before any steps are taken. The Foreign Office would have no objection to recruitment from refugee camps in Italy, provided the refugee authorities concerned agree. It would, however, be desirable to exercise very great discretion in enrolling any Jews escaped from enemy controlled territory, as this would certainly become known to the German Government and prejudice all further hope of rescuing Jews from enemy territory.

#### C. NON BELLIGERENT NEUTRALS

7. Turkey. It is not thought that there would be many Jewish refugees in Turkey. The Turks have always taken good care not to harbour refugees and where Jews have stayed in Turkey they will have remained for some purpose and will be unlikely to wish to leave. The Fureign Office, would, however, be prepared discreetly to approach the Turkish Government after first consulting H.M. Ambassador.

#### D. LIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES

- 8. Levant States, Iraq, Egypt and Libya. The French have allowed limited ordinary recruiting for allied forces in the Levant States but have always insisted that the men enlisted be used for dilution. They might possibly agree that Syrian Jews should be allowed to join the Brigade Group but there are the following serious objections to recruiting in Syria and in Egypt, Iraq and Libya:-
- (a) The Foreign Office consider that recruitment in those countries would lead to widespread Arab fears that the Brigade would be used after the war to the detriment of Arabs in Palestine and this would increase tension in the Middle East.
- (b) It is very unlikely that Governments of Iraq or Egypt would agree to a proposal to recruit in those countries.
- (c) Jews in these countries belong to the East rather than the West and their standard of living is lower than that of the Western Jew. It would be nost inadvisable to set this type of Jew alongside the Western European Jew in the Brigade Group.
- 9. Persia It is not considered that there are many Jews who would volunteer in Persia, and in any case there are two objections to such a course:-
  - (a) there would be difficulties in arranging transport across Iraq, the Iraqi Government have already raised difficulties in the case of other refugees
  - (b) It is undesirable to fuse two types of Jew in the same formation (see (c) of 3 above).

## E.EUROPEAN NEUTRALS

Official recruitment would not be permitted in these countries as it would be an infringement of neutrality. Clandestine recruitment is not

desirable/

desirable. The transport difficulties would proclude the enlistment of any number from some of these countries (eg Sweden or Switzerland) and in any case, Allied nationals and escaped PW would have first claim to any transport available from them. The same applies to such Latin American States as are not belligerent.

#### F. THE BALKANS

- 11 In general this is an area of operations and recruitment is not desirable at present. The Foreign Office have pointed out that
  - (a) In the case of Jugo-Slavia, recruitment might be permitted after consultation with Marshall Tito.
  - (b) In the case of the defeated enemies, the consent of Russia, probably the United States and of the Government of the country concerned, would have to be obtained.
  - (c) The situation in Greece is too uncertain for us to consider recruitment there at present. It is thought most unlikely that there are more than a handful of Jews there.

#### G. DOMINIONS

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The Dominions have first claim on the Jews residing in their countries; at the same time it is possible that the Dominion Governments might agree in some cases to their volunteering for the Brigade Group. The Jewish Agency have already raised the question of Jews in South Africa and the Dominions Office are asking the Union Government for their views through the High Commissioner. Similar action will be necessary if requests are received for recruitment in any of the other Dominions.

#### H. REFUCEES IN UNRRA CAMPS IN MORTH AFRICA

There would probably be no objection to recruit ent from these camps if the other United Nations agree, but is is extremely doubtful whether any suitable recruits would be fortheoning from them.

#### PART II - GENERAL CONSIDERATION

- 14Security There are grave security objections to too great an extension of the field of recruitment. To bring in men from all over the world and especially from Central Europe will present to the energy an opportunity for increased espionage. Any recruitment must be selective; it should be confined to the civilised Jows and not opened to the Eastern Jow with his lower standard of living.
- Present procedure for enlistment from foreign countries. Under the overseas manpower scheme volunteers are able to be brought to this country for enlistment; this scheme has not been given any publicity and is at present only available to men who offer themselves. Originally it was open to British subjects only but has now been extended to aliens. It is possible for Jews in Foreign countries to avail themselves of this scheme.
- 16 Attestation. Attestation under the overseas manager scheme is carried out in this country and it is not possible to guarantee that volunteers will enlist an arrival. If a large scale of recruitment of Jews were allowed it might be advisable to arrange for their attestation before they leave for this country; they would not then be able to refuse to join the Brigade Group.
- 17 Palestine Immigration Policy. A change has now been made in immigration policy in the light of recent developments in Europe. Hitherto policy has been to admit to Palestine as far as possible Jewish Immigrants from enemy countries. Now the Jewish Agency have just arranged for some 400 refugees from Spain and Portugal to go to Palestine (a further 400 may be expected to leave in about a month's time) and further admissions have been approved as follows:-

Roumania /

Roumania and Bulgaria	5 <b>,</b> 000
Italy	900
France (children)	2,000 1,000
Switzerland (children)  Belgium (mostly children)	200
Yeneni Jews in Aden	1,000
Turkey (mostly children)	200
	10,300

This extension of immigration will remove some of the arguments for recruiting in other countries as it will enable some of the refugees, from which it is suggested we should obtain recruits, to go to Palestine and there volunteer for the Brigade Group. It should be noted, however, that not more than 1,500 immigrants will be allowed into Palestine in any one month.

18 Disposal of men on demobilisation. The greater the number and variety of recruits, the greater will be the problem of settlement on demobilisation of the Brigade Group. Only the men who have enlisted in Palestine or who are granted pennits will be allowed to settle in Palestine.

#### PART III - CONCLUSIONS.

- As it has been decided to form only a brigade group, wholesale recruiting is not required and should be limited to the requirements of the Brigade Group.
- Open recruitment in neutral countries would be an infringement of their neutrality and the Foreign Office would not be prepared to ask for it. The revised imagration scheme will allow refugees from Spain to volunteer for the Brigade on arrival in Palestine.
- Recruiting in the countries of Eastern Europe and the Middle East (with the exception of Palestine) cannot be permitted because: -
  - (a) The Jews in the Hiddle East (outside Palestine) are mostly of an oriental type with a lower standard of living than the Jews from the West.
  - (b) The recruitment of Jews in Middle East Countries would lead to widespread Arab fears and would increase tension in the Middle East.
  - (c) Recruiting in the Balkans is not considered desirable and the need for it is reduced by the change in the immigration Policy which allots 5,000 places to Roumania and Bulgaria.
  - (d) It is not considered that any worth while number of Jews would be forthcoming from Turkey.
- If HM Representatives with Allied Governments agree, the Foreign Office would be prepared to ask for permission to obtain recruits from Allied countries. It is considered that Allied Governments have first claim on their Jewish nationals and refugees and if they are unwilling to agree, the Foreign Office would not wish to press thom.
- The Foreign Office would have no objection to recruitment in

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Italy, provided the Italian Government agree, or in refugee camps there, provided the competent authorities agree. But the need for this is reduced by the revised imaigration scheme which allots places to refugees in Italy who will be able to volunteer on arrival in Palestine.

- The possibility of recruitment in South Africa is being taken up with the Union Government through the United Kingdom High Commissioner
- For security reasons the field of recruiting should be 25 limited as far as possible

S.D.2. 11 Nov 44.

72 Detention of Jews in Eritrea Registry Number E 7496/628/31 Copy of Palestine telegram 1615. Gives details of removal of fourteen Jews detained under the Emergency Regulations, to Eritrea FROM Colonial Office communicated No. Dated Received in Registry 7th Dec. 1944. E: Palestine and Transjordan + Last Paper. (Minutes.) See witi Co commid (Palestine tel no 162) of 5th ) ee, References. (Print.) v.o communicated ( € = € 7. € tol 60 67882 \$774) e (How disposed of.) Ala. IN KIL (Action completed.) (Index.) Next Paper. E 7525, 25986 F.O.P.

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INWARD TELEGRAM.

MOST SECRET

(ma) 129

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (Field Marshal Viscount Gort)

TO S. OF S. COLONIES.

D. 4th December 1944. R. 4th "

45.05 hrs.

E /49

IMPORTANT

No.1615 Top Searet.

Addressed S. of S. Repeated Resident Minister, Cairo, No. 169 (please pass copy to the C.-in-C. Middle Edst).

My telegram No.1437, paragraph 2.

The C.-in-C., with my concurrence, is arranging to take into Military custody and remove to place of detention in Eritrea, a further fourteen (repeat fourteen) Jews who have been detained under Emergency Regulations as terrorists or for complicity in terrorist ectivities. These persons are at present detained in Acre Gaol, and are regarded as potential danger to public security. As on previous occasions, move will be carried out by air and will take place on Tuesday, 5th December. After it has been accomplished, I shall publish an official communique, of which the text will be telegraphed to you for information.

Distributed to: -

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## Distributed to:-

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Duke of Devonshire
Sir W. Bettershill
Mr. Gent
Mr. Poynton
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Mr. Willis
Lt. Col. Rolleston
Mr. Harington
Sir A. Dawe
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Mr. Clark
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""" - General
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- Mr. E.H.T. Wiltshire.
- General Sir H. Ismay.
- Lt. Col. L.C. Hollis.
- Col. G.R. Price.
- Chief of Naval Staff.
- Chief of Air Staff.
- G.I.G.S.
- Lt. Col. Withers.
- Lt. Col. Montgomery.
- Major Reid.

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INWARD TELEGRAM

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INDEXED

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FROM PALESTINE (Field Marshal Viscount Gort)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 5th December, 1944. R. 6th " " 01.45 hrs.

No. 1627

Addressed to the S. of S. Repeated to Minister Resident, Cairo, No.170 (please pass to C-in-C. Middle East)

Following official communiqué is being issued in Jerusalem today. Begins.

In the interests of public security fourteen persons detained under the Emergency Regulations in connection with terrorism were transferred on the 5th December to military custody, and removed to a place of detention in Eritrea. Ends.

## Copies sent to:-

Foreign Office
War Cabinet Offices
""""
Admiralty
Air Ministry
War Office
""" (M.O.4)
""" (M.I.2)
""" (C.A.2)
Ministry of Information
(Middle Eastern Divn.)

Ministry of Information (American Divn)

- Mr. C.W. Baxter.
- Mr. E.H.T. Wiltshire.
- General Sir H. Ismay.
- Maj.Gen. L.C. Hollis.
- Col. C.R. Price.
- Chief of Naval Staff.
- Chief of Air Staff.
- C.I.G.S.
- Lt. Col. Withers.
- Lt. Col. Montgomery.
- Major Reid.

Major General A.J.C. Pollock.

Mr. F.O. Darvell.

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INWARD TELEGRAM.

TOP MOST SECRET

Keep with pp

Cypher (O.T.P.)

INDEXED

FROM PALESTINE (Field Marshal Viscount Gort)

TO S. OF S. COLONTES.

D. 5th December, 1944. R. 5th " 22.10 hrs.

No. 1626 Top Secret.

Addressed S. of S. Repeated Resident Minister, Calro, No. 171, please pass copy to C .- in-C. Middle East.

My telegram No.1615.

Fourteen detainees left Palestine soil at 7.15 hours to-day.

## Distributed to:

Mr. Willis И.5.25 Lt. Col. Rolleston Secretary of State Mr. Harington Sir G. Gater Sir A. Dowe Duke of Devonabire Sir W. Bettershill Mr. Boyd Mr. Eastwood Mr. Cent Mr. Glazk. Mr. Poynten Mr. Lloyd Mr. C.W. Baxter. Foreign Office Mr. E.H.T. Wiltshire. War Cabinet Offices -General Sir H. Ismey. Major-General L.C. Hollis. Col. C.R. Price. Chief of Naval Staff. Admiralty Chief of Air Staff. Air Mindstry C.I.G.S. Lt. Col. H.C. Withers. Wer Diffice (M.O.4.) -(M.I.2.) -(C.A.2.) -Lt. Col. B.F. Montgomery. Major Reid.

# MOST SECRET CIPHER TELEGRAM

Put w. 132

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## INDEXED

7498/628/31

C.in.C. Middle East. From:-

Recd. 0655 8 Nov 44. The War Office. To:-

GO.67882 cipher 7 Dec. TOP SECRET

Further party of 14 Jewish internees was successfully deported by air from Palestine to Eritrea on 5/6 Dec without incident.

T.O.O.2015B.

C.6. Tels. Distribution by M.0.4. (for action) To:=M.0.4. Copies to:-

S. of S. P.U.S. C.I.G.S. V.C.I.G.S. D.C.I.G.S. A.C.I.G.S.(0). D.M.O. D.D.M.O.(A)(B). M.O.1,4. D.M.I. D.D.M.I.(I)(0 &S). M.I.2,5,11,17. A.G. D.A.G.(A). A.G.3,6,Coord. Q.M.G. V.Q.M.G. Brig.Q(Ops). Q(Ops)4. D.Q. D.D.Q.(B). Q.2. D.P.Mov. D.D.P.Mov. (Overseas). Q(M)2. P.U.S.(F). D.F.(A)(C). F.1,5. W.F. D.S.D. D.D.S.D.(A). S.D.2. D.C.A. D.D.C.A. (MG). C.A.2(a). Foreign Office (Mr. Baxter). Colonial Office (Col.Rolleston).

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#### TOP SECRET

From : War Office.

To : C.-in-C. Middle East.

C.A.2(a)./B.M./166.

Desp 0940 21 Nov 44

RFTD G.O.C.-in-C. East Africa.

5429 ... Cipher (C.A.2a) Nov 20.

Your cipher CGS/2381 Oct 16:---

FIRST East African Governor's Conference on request of Colonial Office have offered to accept Jewish internees now in Eritrea but adequate accommodation will have to be constructed and this unlikely to be ready under six months.

SECOND As no rpt no alternative accommodation can be found or likely to be available anywhere earlier their interim retention in Eritrea appears inevitable.

C. 6. Tels.

T.O.O. 1.730 A/20

X Colonial Office (Col.Rolleston)

X Foreign Office (Mr. Baxter).

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Copies to:
                                    X Q(Ops)Co-ord, 1, 4.
          XS. of S.
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          X P.U.S.
                                      D.D.Q. (B).
            C.I.G.S.
                                       Q. 2.
         X V.C. I.G.S.
                                       D.P. Mov.
         X D.C.I.G.S.
                                       D.D.P. Mov. (Overseas).
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         x M.I.2, 5, 11, 17.
                                       S.D. 2.
            A.G.
            D.A.G. (A).
                                     X D.C.A.
                                       D.D.C.A. (M.G.).
         x A.G.3(b), Co-ord.
             Q.M.G.
                                     X Col. C.A.
                                     X C.A. 2(a).
            V.Q.M.G.
```

## Note by C.A. 2(a).

CGS/2381 of Oct. 16 distributed to X only stated that the Jewish internees could not be accepted permanently in Eritrea owing to the political situation in that territory and requested their earliest removel.

Brig Q(Ops).

0 0 

MOST SECRET CIPHER TELEGRAM

MI2/BM/1752

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From: C.in C. Middle East.

Recd. 1520 20 Nov 44.

To: War Office.

IMMEDIATE

GO/62461 cipher 20 Nov.

Ref my CGS 2381 dated 16 Oct.

One. Have further examined problems of accn and security of 251 Jewish internees now in Eritrea. While unwilling retain in Eritrea for internal security reasons can make suitable camp available at Carthago in Red Sea. hills.

Two. Can therefore accept 251 internees as permanent military commitment unless for other political considerations you decide remove them from Middle East.

Three. Camp in question can hold up to approx 1000 (rpt 1000) if further deportation from Palestine necessary. TOU 1030B. To: C.A. 2.a. (for action).

Copies to: S. of S. C.6.Tels. S.I.G.S. V.C.I.G.S. D.C.I.G.S. A.C.I.G.S.(0). D.Q. D.Q.(B).
Q. 2.
D.P.Mov.
D.P.Mov.(O'Seas).
Q.(M). 2.
D.F. (a).
F. 1. 5. (4).
W.F.
D.S.D.
D.D.S.D.(A).
S.D. 2. D.M.O. D.D.M.O. (A)(B). M.O. 1. 4. D.M.I. D.D.M.I.(I)(S)(O). M.I. 2. 5, 11, 17. A.G. B.A.G. (A)
A.G. 3.(b) Co-ord. D.D.D.D.(A)
S.D. 2.
D.C.A.
D.D.C.A. (MG)
Col. C.A.
C.A. 2. (a) V.Q.M.G. Brig.Q.(Ops). Q.(Ops). (Co-ord).1.4. Foreign Office (Mr.Baxter). Colonial Office (Col. Rolleston).

01-041-0 O

46800/4517 500M 1/44 LSB Gp. 38.
21778/4422 350M 6/44 LSB Gp. 38.

SECRET CIPHER
TELEGRAM 494996

494996 Refnor E

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(Messages marked O.T.P. need not be paraphrased).

From: - C in C Middle East.

To:- The War Office

IMPORTANT

GO/66765 cipher 4 Dec.

RESTRICTED

Reference my GO/62461 dated 20 Nov.

Request early confirmation para 2.

T.O.O. 1715 B.

C.6. (Telegrams)

To: - C.A.2. (for action)

copies to: - M.O.4.

C.A.2. Foreign Office (Mr.Baxter) Colonial Office (Lt.Col.Rolleston)

E7825 /628 / 31

Recd 2145 4 Dec 44.2 Jr.

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C.A.2(a)/BM/166

From: WAR OFFICE

Desp. 121100 Jan 45

To : C.in C. MIDDLE EAST

INDEXED

-7525/628/31

59041 Cipher(C.A.2a) 11 Jan.

TOP SECRET

Your GO/62461 cipher Nov. 20.

FIRST. It is understood that you have reached agreement with H.M. Ambassador, Cairo that Jewish detainees at present in Eritrea should be accommodated at CARTHAGO.

SECOND. Colonial Office are appreciative of this arrangement which has Foreign Office endorsement.

C.6.Tels.

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D.Q. D.D.Q. (B) Q. 2. D.P. (Mov) D.D.P. (Mov) (Overseas) Q. (M) 2. D.F.(a) F.1.(8). 5(4) W.F. D.S.D. D.D.S.D. (A) S.D.2. D.C.A. D.D.C.A. (MG) Colonel C.A. C.A. 2(a) Colonial Office (Col. Rolleston)
Foreign Office (Mr. Baxter) Brig. Q. (Ops) Q. (Ops) Co-ord. 1. 4.

1944 Accommodation of Jewish Internees in Eritrea. v k 7526/628/31 Refers War Office letter (C.A. 2a/BM./166 of the 22nd November, (E 7219/628/31). Colonial Office FROM Colonel Drew, prefer the accommodation at Carthago, and wish to War Office, to inform Kenya whether to go forward or not with the NMr. Baxter. CA2a/B.M./166 construction of a site there. Requests Foreign Office to say whether there is any objection to the Dated 7th Dec., 1944. detainees being transferred. Received 11th Dec., in Registry 1944. E: Palestine and Transjordan. (Minutes.) Last Paper. The original color 12,19 E 7525 References. Bether till Book Drew by show (Print.) O Report household attended artistation and 150 the challengements (How disposed of.) Tel) cano 426 of 16th yee. · 1797 · 22nd Pac. 9 (Action completed.) (Index.) Next Paper. 25986 F.O.P. E 78.50

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ABBey 1272 Extn. 55. 32/

The War Office, (C.A.2.a.).

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HOTEL VICTORIA,

NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE, LONDON, W.C.2. 139

C.A.2.a./B.M./166.

7th December, 1944.

ECRET. IMPOLATE.

ma. E 7526

May I refer to my letter (C.A.2.a./B.M./166 dated 22nd November) on the subject of the Jewish detaines from Palestine temporarily accommodated in Eritrea.

The Colonial Office prefer the Commander-in-Chief's proposal to accommodate them at Carthago in the Red Sea hills in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan.

The Colonial Office are naturally anxious to instruct Kenya as soon as possible whether or not the construction of a site is to go forward there, and the Commander-in-Chief is getting restive and has been asking us for a decision.

I wonder if you are now in a position to say whether there is any objection to them being transferred to the Sudan. If you have had to refer the matter to Cairo and there is likely to be some delay, I think we shall have to send the Commander-in-Chief an interim telegram.

And On Club,

(Sgd.) F. G. Draw

C.W. Bexter, Esq., C.M.G., M.C., Foreign Office, London, S.W.1.

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9707 9

E 7526/628/31.

[CODE R]

FILES.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO CAIRO.

No.1786. 16th December 1944. D. 3.30 p.m. 16th December 1944.

0 0 0 0 0 /

My telegram 1712 [of 6th December: proposed camp for Jewish terrorists in the Sudan].

I should be grateful for an early reply.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

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(E.7526/628/31) [CODE R]

FILES

## FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO CAIRO (EMBASSY)

No. 1797 22nd December, 1944

D. 6.40 p.m. 22nd December, 1944

()()()

## IMPORTANT

My telegram No. 1712 and my telegram No. 1726 [of 6th and 16th December - proposed camp for Jewish terrorists in the Sudan.]

I should be grateful if you could expedite reply, as we are being urgently pressed for an answer by War Office.

TOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

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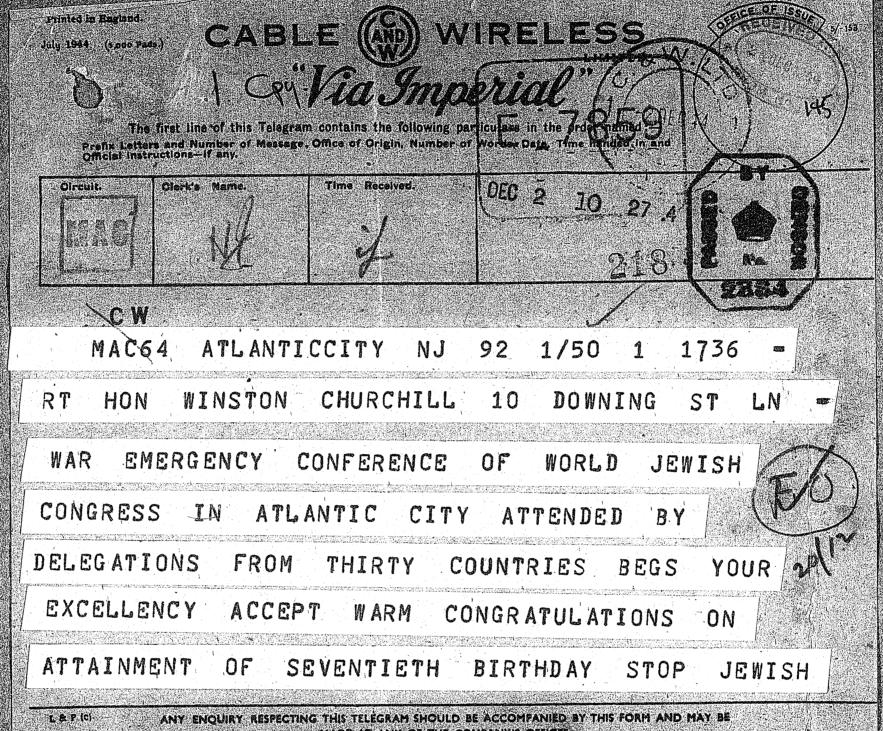
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0 4 Message for Mr. Winston Churchill from the War Emergency Conference of World Jewish Congress. FROM Mr. Stephen Wise. Transmits message of birthday congratulations for Prime Minister from War Emergency Conference of World Jewish Congress. No.2nd Dec.1944 DatedReceived in Registry 23rd Dec. 1944 E:Palestine and Transjordan (Minutes.) Last Paper. Then has personally then easy to F.526. References. Copy to both way for the Manager Cognising withing to the part throwing the fine (Print.) The passage refining to the Prime (How disposed of.) Principles "consistent advocacy of The cause of Justine" is objection able. M 24/2 N. american Dye AR by Mr Butter We ought ? Think to (Action completed.) No. 10's concurrence. TR 12 particular ha d. Sat it by talephone Ms. Next Paper. E7868

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FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1. 30th December, 1944.

(E 7859/628/31).

Dear Chancery, .

We enclose a copy of a telegram sent to the Prime Minister by the President of the War Emergency Conference of the World Jewish Congress.

If you think it desirable, would you please send a suitable acknowledgment and thanks?

Yours ever, Eastern Department.

The Chancery,
British Embassy,
Washington.

Accommodation of Jewish Internees in Eritrea. Registry 7868/628/31 Refers to Foreign Office telegram 1797 TELEGRAM FROM (E 7526/628/31). Lord Killearn, Agrees with proposal. Gives more details in Cairo. correspondence with General Paget endorsed in Cairo 2716 despatch 1511. Dated 24th Dec., Received 25th Dec., in Registry 1944. E: Palestine and Transjordan. Last Paper. (Minutes.) RODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMI the Domante advantable and the second Elssy: on promise of the References. advant I mg the Light the gardier gard. The Debug for the Parties and advantage and a few forms water of a fact that we wanted from the fact of the second ! Told of O. With Officeasing. (Print.) 0 (How disposed of.) The Col Trees. W.O. would it is to be to to the te U.D. The wast position is uscilled above? Mr. Consely Alice. 9 Ruply to Gol Drew arely RMH 28 (Action completed.) (Index.) Next Paper. E192/192/89:45

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[CYPHER]

DEPARTMENTAL NO.1.

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## FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Lord Killeara. No. 2,716.

D: 7.19 p.m. GMT 24th December, 1944.

24th December, 1944.

R: 8.35 p.m. BST 24th December, 1944.

000 000 000

Your telegram No. 1,797. 67576 /676 /31.

I have agreed I admit with considerable reluctance and against my better judgment. See correspondence with General Paget endorsed in my despatch No. 1,511.

C.T.P.

7868.

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FORE IGN OFFICE,

1st Jenuary ( )

(E 7868/628/31)

Dear Drew,

Your letter of 7th December last (C.A.2.Q./B.M./166) regarding Jewish terrorists temporarily accommodated in Eritrea.

We have consulted the Ambassador at Cairo regarding the proposal to move these persons to a camp in the Sudan. He states that he has agreed with the Commander-in-Chief although "with considerable reluctance and "against his better judgment". A despatch is on its way to us enclosing correspondence with General paget, and we will send you a copy on receipt.

Yours sincerely

Sa(R.M.A. Hankey)

Colonel F.G. Drew.